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# YE FAIRBANKS HISTORICAL

VOL. ONE.

NOVEMBER, 1903.

NUMBER ONE.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE  
FAIRBANKS FAMILY IN AMERICA.

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MAXIMUS.

Glorious it is to wear the crown  
Of a deserved and pure success;—  
He who knows how to fail has won  
A crown whose luster is not less.

Great may he be who can command  
And rule with just and tender sway;  
Yet is diviner wisdom taught  
Better by him who can obey.

Blessed are those who die for God,  
And earn the martyr's crown and light;  
Yet he who lives for God may be  
A greater conqueror in His sight.

—Adelaide Proctor.

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"THAT THIS MAY BE A SIGN AMONG YOU, THAT WHEN YOUR CHILDREN ASK  
THEIR FATHERS IN TIME TO COME, SAYING, WHAT MEAN YE BY THESE STONES?  
THEN YE SHALL ANSWER THEM, \* \* AND THESE STONES SHALL BE FOR A  
MEMORIAL UNTO THE CHILDREN \* \* FOREVER."

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

THE FAIRBANK LITERARY BUREAU.

Single Copies, November, 50 cts., the other three, 25 cts. each.



1832088

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*Henry Fairbanks*

First President FAIRBANKS FAMILY ASSOCIATION.  
Elected August 27, 1902.





# Y<sup>e</sup> Fayerbanke Historial.

Devoted to the interests of the  
"Fairbanks Family in America,"  
Historical and Educational.

3 plates

VOL. I.

NOVEMBER, 1903.

NO. 1.

## Jonathan Fayerbanke --- His History.



TWO "Fairbanks" names appear on the early records of the Puritan Colony. Richard Fairebanke came to Boston in 1633, with his wife Elizabeth. It is thought that they came in the "Griffin," the ship which brought Rev. John Cotton to these shores. Savage, the historian says, that they united with the church a month after that great teacher's arrival, on the same day with Elder Leverett and his wife, Governor Brewster and Edward Hutchinson. It was "in ye 8th moneth, 1633," that these signed "ye covenant," and "in ye 9th moneth Elizabeth Fairebaneke." Richard was prominently identified with the public affairs of the new settlement and held many town offices. He was a member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, and was the first Postmaster of the colony. In 1639 the council granted the petition of the inhabitants and the following order was issued:

"For preventing the miscarriage of letters, and it is ordered that notice be given Richard Fairebanke, his house in Boston is the place appointed for all letters which are brought beyond the seas, or are to be sent thither, are to be brought unto; and he is to take care that they be delivered and sent according to their directions; and he is allowed for every letter a penny, and must answer all miscarriages through his own neglect in this kind, provided that no man shall be compelled to bring his letter

thither except he please." He probably served the people thus until his death, as we find nothing further said, until 1677, when the inhabitants of Boston again petitioned the council for a postmaster. We learn by deaths filed, that he died prior to April 15, 1667. He left no descendants in the male line, for as far as the records show, he had only two children, Zaccheus, the boy, dying at the early age of 14 years: Constance, the daughter, was born (bapt.) January 10, 1636, and married Samuel Mattock of Boston, March 30, 1653. Ten children were born to them, four only living to bring up families. The history of Richard Fairebanke is an interesting one, but our interest, as a family, is all centered in the other arrival.

### Our Ancestor.

Jonathan Fayerbanke, is reported to have come from Sowerby, in the vicarage of Halifax, Yorkshire, England, to Boston, Mass, probably in 1633, at the same time that Richard came. It is not known for sure, but it is thought that they were brothers. The records on this side the water have been searched carefully, but thus far have failed to show the date of their arrival or their relationship. It is hoped that the searchings now going on in the mother land will determine these matters. With Jonathan, came his wife Grace and six children, John, George, Mary, Susan, Jonas and Jonathan. It is said



that they brought with them the frame of a house, and that the timbers lay in Boston for three years, during which time Jonathan looked about for a location. He finally decided on Dedham, (Contentment as then called) where he settled in 1636. This old town, now quite famous, was established and named by the General Court on the 10th of ye 7th moneth 1636." (Sept. 10th) on the petition of twelve persons. Thereupon the "Dedham Covenant" was drawn up and signed by the petitioners and others. After the grant of the General Court in 1636, persons were admitted from time to time. On the 23d of March, 1637, "Jonathan Fayerbanke" being presented by John Dute was accepted and subscribed. The Covenant was in the nature of a mutual compact concerning the future management of the affairs of the town, and was as follows:

#### THE COVENANT.

1. We whose names ar here vnto subscribed, doe, in the feare and Reuerence of our Almighty God, Mutually: and senerally p'mise amongst our seules and each to other to p'fesse and practice one truth according to that most p'fect rule, the foundation where of is Eurlasting Love:

2. That we shall by all meanes Laboure to keepe of from vs all such as ar contrary minded. And receaue onely such vnto vs as be such as may be p'rably of one harte, with vs as that we either knowe or may well and truly be informed to walke in a peaceable conuersation with all meekenes of spirit for edification of each other in the knowledg and faith of the Lord Jesus: and the mutuall encouragment vnto all Temporall comforts in all things: seeking the good of each other out of all which may be deriued true Peace.

3. That if at any time difference shall arise betwene p'ties of our said Towne, that then such p'tie and p'ties shall present-

ly Referre all such difference, vnto some one, 2. or 3. others of our said societie to be fully accorded and determined without any further delay, if it possibly may be:

4. That every man that now or at any time heere after shall haue Lotts in our Towne shall paye his share in all such Rates of money, and charges as shall be imposed vpon him Rateably in p'portion with other men. As also become freely subieect vnto all such orders and constitutions as shall be necessariely had or made, now or at any time heere after from this daye fore warde, as well for Loveing and comfortable societie, in our said Towne as also for the p'sperous and thriving Condition of our said fellowships, especially respecting the feare of God in which we desire to begin and continue what so euer we shall by his Loveing fauour take in hand.

5. And for the better manifestation of our true resolution heere in, euery man so receand: to subscribe heere vnto his name there by obligeing both himself and his successors after him for euer, as we have done.

#### A Prominent Man.

We find that our ancestor was placed at once on a special committee, that he was present month by month at the meetings, taking an active part in the affairs of the town and that he was a prominent man in those early trying days. He was a man with a good education for the times, a man of strong common sense, sound judgement and good executive ability.

"It seems evident," says an able correspondent, "that he was a man of strong individuality, and that characteristic, at least, his descendants undoubtedly retain to a large extent, for we find many instances of dogged tenacity of purpose marking the actions of individuals in each generation, by means of which they have raised themselves to high rank in their respective



callings, and we are fully entitled to claim that the average position which has been attained by the members of the family in the communities in which they have labored, has been such as to mark it as a family second to none in any respect on this side of the Atlantic."

He was evidently possessed of ample means for those days, or he would not have been able to have taken good care of his large family until he secured his permanent home. He received various grants of land in Dedham at different times, including the lot on which the house now stands. Before 1637 there had been granted him a twelve acre lot, four acres of which were "Swampe" land; and in that year he received another allotment of four acres more.

In those early days lands were granted to individuals in twelve and eight acre lots, the grant reading thus:

"Ordered that Every Twelye Acre Lott shall haue foure acres of swampe granted in the first grante there vnto besides what may be granted in any denident of swampe that may afterward be layed out."

Another order read:

"Ordered that every man that hath an whole Lott shall haue so many Acres of Meadowe as he hath vpland in his first grante for a house Lott where of part of such peells of meadowe as lyeth adioyning to his said Lott shall be granted to him in pt and the remainder shall be made vp else where."

In 1612 he was granted "Sixe acres in ye medowe neere vnto the south side of Ballpate hill." Two other grants appear on the records in 1644, and in 1656 he was allotted his proportion of "Conon town rights," six and three-fourths acres.

### The Ancestral Home.

On the "vpland in his grant for an house Lott," made in 1636, our ancestor built his first house, or rather a part of

the present building, in which they lived subsequently; about 1618, an addition was built, and a few years later, a larger addition was made, which was called "the new house," supposed to be built for the occupation of his oldest son John and his family. There the historic old house has stood till the present time, "warped and worn by the sunshine and storms" of nearly three centuries. "Winter and summer, frost and heat have done much to undermine its symmetry, and its leaning walls and sloping floors are only held in place by its frame of massive oak." During all this time down to 1897, it has been handed down through eight generations with never a mortgage incumbrance upon it.

As to Jonathan's "gude wife," we know nothing at present, but we can not but feel that she was "a fair woman to look upon," and that there was no holding back, when the call came to her husband as it did to Abram of old, "Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house unto a land that I will show thee, and I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee and make thy name great, and thou shalt be a blessing." "It is only within the past few months that her name and date of marriage have been discovered, all of the Dedham records simply saying, "Jonathan and Grace." Probably within the coming year we will learn of her parentage as well as that of Jonathan the husband, as researches are now being carried forward in the country about the old Sowerby hamlet. The Halifax parish register (a few miles from Sowerby) has this record: "1617, 20 May Nup. Jonathan Fayerbanke—? and Grace Smith War." War stands for Warley, probably the home of Grace. The same parish register has this record: "Sowerby, George Fayerbanke, Church warden" He was a cousin of



some degree) of Jonathan as the following testifies :

WILL OF GEORGE FAIRBANKE OF ENGLAND  
1650

This handsomely written copy was folded and sealed, like a letter without envelope, and addressed in a different handwriting from the copyist's

George fairebanke his

last Will &

Testamt.

ffor his Lovinge Cusen Jonathan

Fayrebancke in new Ingland

these

Delivr.

The last Will and Testament of George fairbanke of Sowerby in ye Vickeridge of Halifax & County of Yorke, Clothier

May ye xxvijth. 1650

Conserninge ye Disposal of all my worldly goods : first my will and minde is yt all my lawfull debts funeral expenses & charges I haue putt James Platts to in this my sicknes hee paid out of my whole Estate ; And then my will & minde is as followeth ; Inprinis J giue and bequeath to Mr. Henery Roote forty shillings ; J giue & bequeath to ye poore of Sowerby ye Sum'e of xls to be distributed amongst them as my Executor shall thinke most fitt ; J giue & bequeath to Michael fairebanke my brother xls. ; J giue & bequaith to my brother Deanes' Children welc hee had by my Sister xls. ; J giue & bequaith to my brother John Axenoppe xls. ; J giue and bequaith to Ellis Rutters & his wife xls. ; J giue and bequaith to my brother Jeremias wife and Children xxxs. equally to bee denided amongst them ; J giue and bequaith unto ye Children of Henery Blackley hee had by my sister Abigail xxs. ; J giue & bequaith to Mr. Jonathan fairebanke xxs J giue & bequeath to Sushan Chadwicke flicu pounds ; J giue & bequeath to George fairebanke sonne of George faire-

banke ye sum'e of 5£ ; J giue & bequeath to Abraham Platts pe sum'e of 6£ ; J giue & bequeath to Nathan Bates sonne of Mathew Bates xs J giue to Henery Stanhope xijl ; J giue to Nathan Hobroyd ijs vjd. J giue to Sara Chadwicke daughter of Sushan Chadwicke vs ; J giue to Nicholas Cunliffe 5s J giue to Grace Kilner xs ; J giue to Nathan Carter sonne of Michael Carter deceased fliue shill. J giue to Sara Platts fliue shill. ; J giue to James Sharpe fliue shill. ; J giue to James Casson xs J giue & bequeath to Mary Platts wife of James Platts wth whome J now live 5£ ; J giue & bequeath to Sara Platts daughter of James Platts 3£ I giue to Iohn Bawden & his wife xs ; I giue to May Earneshawe and her three Children, eury one of them xs, J giue to Michael Earneshaw my Purple suite, one fustion dublett wth silver buttons at ; J giue & bequeath to James Platts with whom I now lien x£ as also a newe peece of cloath Tanney C[ou]ller to be him a snit ; & all such things as to make it vpp complete for wearinge. J inge & bequeath to Samuel ffarer ye summe of 5£ pvided hee bee Lieneinge twelue monthes after my death Alwayes pvided & my will & minde is yt my Executor shall not paye any Legacies till ye suites now commenced against any pson or psons bee fully ended & if it so fall out yt ye suite or suites commenced doe call for & expend more then is expected so yt there is not sufficient to paye ye legacies giuen then my will & minde is yt eury one shall baite of his Legacie accordinge as my Estate shall fall shorte ye residue of my goods Cattles & Chattells vndiposed of J giue and bequeath to James Platts whom J ordaine & appointe sole Executor of this my last will and Tetament & I doe hereby revoke all other wills whatsour. In Witnes whereof I haue putte my hand In ye pesence of Witnesses Robert Tilletson Mary Platts Grace Lee Abraham Platts.





Vera Copia Concordance wth original.

This is an interesting document both as to loving remembrance and showing the relationship existing between George and Jonathan, also that the famous John Prescott, the founder of Lancaster, Mass., whose daughter Lydia married Jonas, the third son of Jonathan, was also "in the family," as his wife was Mary Platts.

Of the children of Jonathan and Grace we have not space to say much about them in this article. In some subsequent issue we will relate their "going outs." They were all strong characters, well fitted to be the "fathers of towns," as they at least were. Following the English law of entail, John, the oldest son, came into possession of the homestead and from that time down to 1897, the old home was continuously occupied by him and his descendants, through eight generations, to Rebecca, the last of the family tenants. The following document is of much interest.

WILL OF JONATHAN FARRBANKE OF DEDHAM  
1668

In the yeare of our Lord one thousand sixe hundred sixty and eight, the first day of the fourth month, comonly called June, I Jonathan ffarbanke of dedham in the Countie of Suffolke Seniore, Being sicke and weake, And expecting that my day of dissolution is drawing nere doe in the name and feare of God ordaine and make this my last will & Testament for the disposing and settling of the things of this life, with which the Lord hath at present Intrusted me in manner & forme as followeth; viz first I commit my soule to God that gaue it, Trusting in the alone Righteousnes & mediation of Sesus Christ my Redemer & advocate, & my body to the earth whence it way taken: to be after my decease, Desently buried therein in christ-in buriall at the discretion of my Exceutor. In prims I giue & bequeath vnto grace my Deere & well beloved wife, All and Every prt & preell of my all moueable Estate whatsoever os well within doors as without, namely all my household stuffe, of all & Euery sort & kinde as also all my cat-

tell of all kinds all my corne cartes ploughs workeing tooles & vtensils of husbandrye all debts due to me & whatsoever Ells come within the denomination of moueable Estate & and all this I giue and Bequeath to my said wife, to despose of when And to whom shee shall at at any time see meete. And more I giue to grace my said wife an Annuite of Eight pound pr Annum to be paid to her or her assignee to her vse yearly and euery yeare, in two equall prts. \* \* Item I giue & bequeathe to George (ffarbanke my secon)d sonne & to his heyres for euer, sixtene pounds the one halfe whereof shall be payed to him within the space of one ( - - - ) yeare next ensuing after the decease of my wife; And whereas I haue already giuen and doe hereby confirme to my said sonne George all that my prt in the general dividend (dividend?) already laid out thro Meadfield & some working tooles & such like small things, my will & my mind is, That the said percell of lande and those tooles and other small things soe giuen shall be all indifferently and Equally ap- rized and if they shall together amount to the value of eight pounds then it shall be accounted for his first payment. \* \* \* And I giue and bequeath to my daughter Mary the wife of Christofore Smith the sume of sixtene pounds I giue to my said daughter in prticular, & distinct from her husbands Estate & to be allwayes at her dispose, this sixteen pounds to be payed in two equall (sumes?) of Eight pounds. \* \* \* Item More I giue to my said daughter Mary Three pounds to purchase her a suit of apparell to be paid within the space of three months after my decease. Item, I giue and bequeath to Jonas ffarbanke my third sonne & his heyres for euer like the sume of sixtene pounds to be also payed in two equal sumes. \* \* \* Item I giue & bequeath to Jonathan ffarbanke my youngest sonne & to his heighers the like sume of sixtene pounds, to be paid also in two Equal Sum'es. \* \* \* Item I giue and bequeath to Sarah the Eldest daughter of my sonne John ffarbanke one young beast betwixt one and two years of age, & more three pounds to be payed to my Exceutor when she shall attaine lawfull age, the young beast before mentioned I Reserve out of the cattell bequeated to Grace my



wife; Item 1 guine & bequeath to my sonne in lawe Ralph Daye fourty shillings to be payed within six monthes after my wives decease;

Item 1 guine & bequeathe to each of the foure Children of the said Ralph which he had by my daughter Susan his late wife the sume of fourtie shillings to be payd generallly as they shall attaine lawfull age prouided all my other Legacies to my three sonnes & my daughter be first payed in manner as is aboue Expressed; Item my my mind & my will is that all these my legacies aboue bequeathed, the specie or kind of payment whereof is not named shall be all payed in current Contrey payment at price then Current In ded (ham 1 guine & haqueath) To John faerebanke my Eldest sonne all my houses & lands whatsoever, not being formerly aboue mentioned? togethyer with all my common Rightes & towne pruiliges whatsoever, to haue posses & enjoy the same ( - - - ) & his heyers ( - - - to ) enter vpon all my lands forthwith after my decease; and all my houses and yurdes at the end of foure mo'ntthes n(ext followin)g the same; Item I do nominate appoint and ordayne John Faerebanke my alforesaid Eldest Sonne, To be my sole Exceutor to whom I commit all necessary trust & power Requisite for the due and full performance & Execution of this my last will as it belongs or is necessary for an Exceutor to doe in all & every prt as is aboue expressed; Item I also name & intreate my very loucing friends Eleazer Lusher & Petter Woodward Sene to be onerscers to the performance of this my present will & to be assisting to my aboue named Exceutor therein as themselves shall see cause, & I doe hereby reuoke & make null & void all others or former wills whatsoener by me formerly made; & doe avouch & declare this present writing, as is aboue herein entered, to be & contayne my true onely & last will & testament.

In wittnes whereof I the said Jonathan faerebanke Sene haue herevnto subscribed my hand & affixed my seale the day & yeare first aboue written.

This a true copy of the will of Jonathan  
Faerebanke senyore.

as attest Daniell fisher,

Wiliam Avery,

The inventory of the estate is interesting as showing the valuation of property and something of the habits of life at that time. Some items are omitted. The whole amounted to 214<sup>l</sup> 04s 02d, which was quite a large estate for those early days.

#### INVENTORY OF THE ESTATE OF JONATHAN FAIRBANKE.

An Inventory of the whole Estate of Jonathan Fairbanke Sene late of Dedham deceased made and taken ye 16th of 10th mo. Anno 1668 by those names are under-written. Viz.

In the parlour

In pms ye bookes	00-18-00
In money 9s 8d the purse in which the money was 4d	00-10-00
Ite the weareing woollen Aprill of the deceased, with one hatt, with boots & cet.	05-07-00
Ite weareing linen,	01-01-00
Ite bedstead matt and bed-eoarde	00-10-00
Ite 4 bed Curtaynes	00-15-00
Ite one blew Rugg 2 blankets and one payer of sheets	03-15-00
Ite 1 slack bed one Fether bolster 2 fether pillwes & 2 pillow beers	02-00-00
Ite one trundle beadstead bed-eoarde and matts	00-06-00
Ite one toilet—one blanket 1£—one bedteak 5s	01-05-00
Ite 2 feather pillowes	00-12-00
Ite one Livery Cupboarde,	01-05-00
Ite one sea (ten?) chest	00-03-00
Ite 2 Clevers,	00-06-00
Ite one olde Warmeing panne	00-02-00
Ite one Sunne Dyall 2s one dryeing iron 1s one door	00-01-00
Ite oneSworde 8s one Chwte-las 4s	00 12-00
Ite 2 gnumes 1£ one musket rest 1s	01-01-00
Ite one halfe pike 2s 6d one grango staffe 1s one other small staffe 1	00-03-10

and other items.

In the Halle(kitchen)

Ite 2 old Tables and one forme 3-6d one Cheyer 2-6	00-06-00
Ite one brasse Skillet 5 one other olde skillet 1s 6d	00-06-00



Ite one olde kettle 7s one			
Iron pot 5s 2 pr pott hooks			
2s-6	00-11	06	
Ite 2 Bakers 1-6 2 Cokrows			
10s fire shovells & tongs 5s	00-17	06	
Ite Pewte (?) 2s one fryeing			
panne 2s	00-01	00	
Ite 16 e Dishes 2s 6 e sau-			
chers 2 earthen potts 8d	03-02	00	
Ite 16 wooden platters 1s 6d			
one boxe 6	00-02	00	
Ite 2 wooden bottles 1s one			
tobacco knife and trencher			
8d	00-01	08	
Ite 6 aloamin spoones 1s 4d			
one pewter wine (?) cupp 3d	00-02	00	
Ite 4 pewter Dishes 8s 2 pieces			
of old pewter 1s	00-09	00	
Ite one painted Dish one gully			
dish 1s	00-01	00	
Ite 4 spinning wheelcs	00-02	00	
<i>and other items.</i>			
In the parlour Chamber			
Ite one bedsteac lind & mat			
8s th bedding hereupon 2£8s	02-16	00	
Ite one piece of new cotton			
cloath,	00-18	00	
Ite 3 sheets 2 pillow beers one			
short table cloath	03-00	00	
Ite 12 pieces of linnen 14s 2			
old sheets 3 pieces of old			
linnen 5s new linnen 15 yds			
2—1.11	02-10	00	
Ite one piece of english cot-			
ton on (one) snap sash—			
one poulder horne & poul-			
der in it	00-05	00	
Ite one Chest and one (---)	00-07	00	
In the rooms called the new			
house, <i>and</i> In the chamber			
of the new house, <i>many</i>			
<i>items farming, tools</i> corn rye			
poas wheat hemp and flax			
In the working cellar			
Item 2 vices and one turning			
laeth and other such things			
belonging to that roome	01-00	00	
In another cellar			
Ite 1 beere possets one Churne,			
cheese, butter, beefe, &c.,	01-17	00	
In the cellar in the yarde			
Ite 4 barreles with Cider in			
them one pouldering ( <i>prou-</i>			
<i>dering salting</i> ) tubb with			
some pork in it—and apples	01-16	00	
In the hafe chamber			
Ite many Smale tools for turn-			
ing and other the like work,	03-00	00	
Ite sheeps wool and cotton			
woole 8s linnen yarne and			
cotton yarne 12s 3 tubbs			
one keeler one screw & c	01-09	00	
Ite scales and weights—and			
lead 4s 6d	00-01	06	
hopps in a bag	00-01	06	
In the parvis			
Ite Some Indian and one old			
fahne	00-04	00	
In the yarde			
Ite one Cider presse with the			
things belonging thereto			
and gained estones	01-00	00	
In cattell			
Ite 3 swine 2£5s with the			
piggcs belonging thereto	02-05	00	
1 Cowes and one yearning			
Calf	11-00	00	
2 Steeres about 4 yeares old	08-00	00	
Ite haye in the barn and bar-			
floores	03-00	00	
Ite the home Lott with the			
adition of Lande in the			
wigwan playne—the orch-			
yard and all the buildings			
thereupon	50-00	00	
Ite the 8 Cows Comons	16-00	00	
Ite 6 acres of meadowe in			
Broade meadowe	5-00	00	
Ite 2 acres at forest meadow			
and Comon meadow shore	6-00	00	
Ite in purgatory playne—22			
acres uplands	22-00	00	
Ite in the Lowe playne - -			
acres	8-00	00	
Ite North Devidens 1 acres	12-00	00	
Ite in the Clapboarde trees	02-00	00	
Ite Swanpe in the great			
Ceader Swanpe neer sawe			
mille	1-00	00	
Ite at moolomonpoungo 3 Cow			
Comons,	08-00	00	
Ite rights at Portosum Prando	03-00	00	
Elza Lusher			
Petr Woodward See			
Daniell Fisher			



### The Family Record.

The first family record reads thus:

Jonathan Fayerbanke was born in England, probably about 1595. He married, (Halifax, England, parish register) May 20, 1617, Grace Smith of Warley, England. He died in Dedham, Mass., December 5, 1668; she died either December 28, 1673, or, May 19, 1676.

Their children were all born in England.

1. John, born (bapt) February 15; 1617-8; married, March 1, 1644, Sarah Fiske. They lived on the Dedham homestead, where he died November 13, 1684; she died Nov. 26, 1683. Five children.

2. George, born (bapt) November 28, 1619; married, October 26, 1646, Mary Adams of Dedham. They removed to Sherborne, afterwards Medway, where he was an esteemed citizen. He was drowned January 10, 1682. His wife died August 11, 1711. Seven children.

3. Mary, born (bapt) Feb. 3, 1621-2; married, April 2, 1644, Michael Metcalf, Jr., who was born in England, August 29, 1620. He died March 1, 1654, and she married secondly, August 6, 1654, Christopher Smith of Dedham. She died June 4, 1684. He died November 7, 1676. Five children by first husband, one by the latter.

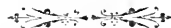
4. Jonas, born (bapt) March 6, 1621-5; removed to Lancaster, Mass., in 1657, where he married, May 28, 1658, Lydia, daughter of the famous John Prescott who also came from Sowerby, England. He was killed by the Indians February 10, 1676, during a raid upon the settlement. Seven children.

5. Susan, born about 1627; married, October 12, 1647, Ralph Day of Dedham. She died July 8, 1659. Six children.

6. Jonathan, born about 1628-9; resided in Dedham near his brother John. He married Deborah, daughter of Edward Shepard of Cambridge. He died Jan. 28,

1711-12; she died September 7, 1705.

Nearly all persons in the United States bearing the name of Fairbank or Fairbanks, are related by direct descent from Jonathan the first, while there are many others who take a pride in tracing their lineage back through the daughters to the original family tree.



rhyme dedicated to the Fairbanks family, April 27, 1902, read by the author, Mrs. Margaret L. Ray of Franklin Mass., at the family supper. Mrs. Ray is regent of the Fairbanks, Chapter D. R.

Fairbankses, Fairbankses, Fairbankses,  
we.

Gotten together by John:  
The uncles, the aunts, the cousins we see  
All rally, the emblem to don.

Old Jonathan he,  
Had little idee  
What he was doin', when over the sea  
He brought the old house and family tree.

From north and from south, from east and  
from west,

Fairbankses have come to day,  
All dressed, I believe, in good Sunday best.  
They make a fine looking array.

Fairbankses short and Fairbankses tall,  
Fairbankses light and dark;  
Fairbankses big and Fairbankses small,  
But all with a Fairbanks mark.

Ah! Jonathan he,  
Had little idee  
What he was doin', when over the sea  
He brought the old house and family tree.

He brought his six children, two girls and  
four boys,

We've all come down from these lines;  
Jonas, they say, has made much the most  
noise.







---

*Mary Nathaniel Fairbanks,  
Bangor, Maine.*

President of the FAIRBANKS FAMILY ASSOCIATION.  
Elected August 27, 1903.



*His* fork, it bears the most tines.  
If you don't believe just all that I say,  
Cause *I'm* from Jonas the bonny,  
I'll send you at once to our Oracle gay,  
In other words, dear Cousin Johnny.

He knows us all, to grandpa the first,  
And which has the blood most blue,  
E'en which ones have heads that are  
likely to burst,  
Oh, Johnny knows me and knows you.  
He knows the ancestor who sat in the  
stocks,  
And all his descendants to-day,  
E'en the one who was fined, for wearing  
top boots.

For lacking his debts then to pay.  
Ah! Jonathan he,  
Had little idee  
What he was doin,' when over the sea  
He brought the old house and family tree.  
But there always has hung on the family  
tree  
Jewels quite rich and quite rare —  
Each generation has done its own work —  
And the list is goodly and fair,  
Doctors and Lawyers and Ministers too,  
Senators, Captains, we present to you;  
The name, it flies forth o'er hills and o'er  
dales,  
And up in Vermont, — it *Mountains*,  
scales.

Ah! Jonathan he,  
Had little idee  
What he was doin,' when over the sea  
He brought the old house and family tree.  
They say now indeed, that blood always  
tells,  
And Jonathan had a lot of it,  
For still the old grit, we now see, by spells,  
Or else indeed, I am no prophet.  
I've seen it at home, I've seen it abroad,  
Wherever a Fairbanks, I've met,  
Sometimes they are narrow, tho' often  
they're broad,  
But almost always they're set.

They know their own minds, that's more  
than some do.  
And once they have chosen they stick.  
Old Jonathan's blood not yet has run out,  
I tell you 'twas good and 'twas thick.

*His* children, their duties never did shirk,  
For children they had by the score  
How many descendants are now upon earth,  
You'll have to ask Johnny, I'm 'shore."  
Ah! Jonathan he,  
Had little idee

What he was doin,' when over the sea  
He brought the old house and family tree.  
We've seen the old house he builded, to-day,  
And some of the things that deck her —  
We also have seen the occupant there,  
You know her, our cousin Rebecca;  
She lives like the maid, in the fortress old,  
Monarch of all she surveys —  
He who would cross *her* pathway is bold,  
Unless she doth know his ways.  
Firm and erect as the rock of Gibraltar,  
True to the house she stands —  
As did the old monks with hymnals and  
psalter,

In the good old days of those hands.  
Ah! Jonathan he,  
Had little idee  
What he was doin,' when over the sea  
He brought the old house and family tree.  
But now we have come to our Fairbanks  
book

Which we so eagerly con —  
We thank that dear cousin who made it  
his work,  
And he who did help, — cousin John.  
Unto the latter our thanks are *now* due  
For bringing us thus together, —  
To the Fairbanks banner, we'll all be true,  
Be it pleasant or squally weather.  
We'll extend a hand, each one unto all,  
Till we stretch from sea to sea,  
The Fairbanks' name we'll ever extol  
And our children shall live to see  
That: —  
Old Jonathan he,  
Had little idee  
What he was doin,' when over the sea  
He brought the old house and family tree.



## The Old Fairbanks House.

Abridged from a chapter in "Old Colonial Homes," written by Alvin Lincoln Jones of Malden, Mass.



IN some respects the homestead of the Fairbanks family is entitled to the first place in considering the claims of the numerous old houses in the State, to our regard and attention. It is, beyond comparison, more picturesque, and in its primitive simplicity it brings us nearer to a true understanding of the actual appearance and characteristics of the house of our forefathers, than any other house we have seen. It is true that some changes have been made; but these have been in the nature of repairs rather than alterations, and have merely served to keep the old house from falling to pieces. The shape, size, and finish appear to-day about the same as they have within the memory of the oldest inhabitant."

From the outside it is difficult to realize that this is an occupied dwelling. It seems more like an ideal picture, brought before our wondering eyes by some magic power of art. The gray walls, tinted by the brush of Father Time with the natural stain of the rain-drops; the moss grown shingles on the roof in varying shades of sage and mauve; the brightness of the meadow carpet, stretching away to the the south, dotted with the yellow white of the "Marguerite" and the butter cup; the purple shadows on the tree-trunks and on weather-beaten clap boards—make up a composition of form and color which is hard to equal. That the pictorial possibilities of the house and its surroundings are appreciated by students of art is apparent

to any one who remains for any length of time at the house; for hardly a day passes in the out-door season, that the grounds are not overrun by devotees of the easel and sketching-block, or the more numerous camera "fiends."

It is impossible, in one photograph, to show the construction of this house, much less its remarkable quaintness and picturesque-ness. We have chosen the view from the back, as it appears when approached from the railroad station. No other point shows so well the lowness of the house as nestles among the tall and stately trees. We should have preferred to show the front; but as the house has apparently turned its back to the road, as if to court that retirement which is denied it, we decided on this view, feeling that the superior beauty which this side displays would be sufficient excuse. The eastern end is also very attractive, and is photographed more frequently than any other section of the house.

Facing southerly, the house stands on one of the best corner lots in the town. The large farm which once belonged to it has long since been divided and scattered among different branches of the family. The lot on which the house stand now contains less than one acre.

As we come to examine details, we shall see that the house is in three sections, a main part and two wings. The entire length of the house, including the wings, is seventy-five feet. The main or middle part has a pitch roof extending down over the lean to at the back to within a few feet of the ground. Both wings are gambrel roofed. Long years ago an Indian arrow projected from the roof, having been there



beyond the memory of any of the family. In re-shingling, the arrow was pulled out and has now disappeared.

As we stand before the front door we can count eight windows, of which no two are alike in size. Being irregularly placed as well, the effect is very peculiar. The boarding of the outside walk will also attract attention; for we may see an assortment of sizes, ranging from a narrow clapboard, four inches wide, to some heavy plank measuring twenty-one inches across. Contrary to the usual custom, we do not find the chimney and the front door exactly in the centre, one of the very few exceptions to this rule of building two centuries ago that we have seen. This deviation results in making one of the main rooms larger than the other. The old well, where formerly the well sweep hung, is front of the door, although the house is now supplied by the town water.

In addition to the main chimney we shall notice a smaller one in the eastern wing. The western wing never had a chimney, the rooms having been principally used by the hired men as sleeping apartments. Although connected with the main part by a door, it stands as a separate house, being built up against the older structure, as may be seen by an examination of the cellar. This wing is about one hundred and fifty years old.

The doorways throughout the house are so low that a person of medium height can scarcely pass through without bending the head. The lower front entry measures eight feet in width and three and one-half feet in depth. From this diminutive hall five doors open—the front outside door, those opening into the rooms on either side, a door at the foot of the stairway to the floor above, and another at the head of the stairs to the cellar. The back wall of the upper stairway is formed by the wall of the chimney, as is usual in houses of this

period, and the bricks have never been covered. This is the only case of the kind we have ever seen. In the hall we first noticed the extent of the settling of the walk, the front wall having dropped little by little until the timbers which run from front to back have broken clear through. Extra pieces have been put in as braces, some of them measuring eleven inches in length.

We passed into the kitchen at the left of the entry. Figuratively speaking, we passed from the end of the nineteenth century to the middle of the seventeenth century at the same time. No room in the house appears as old as this kitchen. It is about sixteen feet square, and is only lighted by two, long narrow windows on the front. Overhead all the beams and rafters show, this room never having been plastered. The walls are made of over-lapped boards with rounded edges. The outside walls were finished the same way before the clapboards were put on. All the woodwork in the kitchen has turned to a deep brown, chocolate brown, the result of age and the smoke from the wood fires of two centuries. Years ago the overhead rafters were painted, but the paint now has almost entirely disappeared.

The old fireplace has now been covered in, and a modern coal-stove is used. The brick oven still remains, but has outlived its usefulness. The chimney, at the bottom, measures eight by ten feet.

A door has been cut from the kitchen into the west wing, and another at the back leads to the room in the leanto. As the floor of the kitchen is a foot or more lower than the room in the leanto, a square log has been placed in the doorway as a step. The smooth, deep hollow in the log, caused by the passing and repassing of the countless footsteps, was one of the most interesting features of the house. The baby, the child, the youth, the maiden, father,





"grandpa," and "grandma" have left their imprint here. We missed the well-worn door-stone at the entrance but we found its substitute here.

Suspended from two hooks fastened into the great beam in the ceiling, we saw an old smooth-bore musket, two yards long. This gun has a famous history, having been carried to the siege of Louisburg by Lieut. Joseph Fairbanks. After the surrender, Joseph Fairbanks and his family settled at Halifax, where his descendants still remain. A few years ago the owner of the gun sent it to Miss Rebecca, and so the old smooth-bore came to be hung again in its old place after the absence of one hundred and thirty-five years.

Crossing the entry we enter the parlor. This was originally about two-thirds the size of the kitchen. An addition was built on to the eastern end, adding about six feet to the width and allowing for two extra windows. The parlor has been plastered, and is in other ways more modern than the kitchen. It is one of the lowest in the house, measuring in the highest part not over six feet in height, and near the front wall which has sunk so much, it is several inches less. Here we found considerable old china and some very old books, and most valuable of all, a set of four colored pictures of the Lexington and Concord fight, by J. Honeywell. These are said to be the original drawings from which the reproductions which have appeared in some of the magazines were taken. One hundred and fifty dollars have been offered for them and refused.

The leanto contains a room back of the parlor, which was formerly a bedroom, and a long room back of the kitchen and chimney, once used as a sitting-room and work-room. The bedroom has one small window. The other room has two windows and an outside door, which, owing to the sinking of the walls, is now but four feet and four inches high.

Although the leanto is two steps higher than the main rooms, we must go up still another to enter the eastern wing. It is an old tradition in the family that this part was built for John Fairbanks and his bride in 1611, his father having erected the main structure five years before. With the exception of the kitchen we found this quite a cosy tenement, having two lower and one upper rooms. A very odd little porch has been squeezed into the corner of the house, opening from the larger room. A "settle" or seat fills up one side of the porch. This, we were told, was a great place for "courting" in olden times.

The larger room in the wing was John's parlor. One window looks out beside the porch, and two others across the yard at the back. In the north-east corner is a chimney, with a fire-place in each of the lower rooms. In the parlor, over the fire-place, still swings a wooden crane, five feet long. Long years ago, before the discovery of petroleum, the family used to hang grease lamps called "widders," or "old Betsy," on this crane, to light up the room during the long winter evenings.

The tall old clock in the corner, although somewhat over 150 years old, is a new comer to the house. It was bought from a family in New Hampshire a few years ago. For generations it had told the time in the same place; and the last owner received it as a legacy, with the condition that it should never be sold unless to provide food in case of great need. Years passed away, and the struggle for existence became more and more precarious, until finally the ancient heirloom was sold.

The small room in the wing was a chamber, and is only separated from the parlor by a board partition. The fireplace in the chamber was once ornamented with old-fashionable blue Dutch tiles, two of which still remain. This room has two windows.



From the main room a winding stair ascends to the chamber above, which is as large as both of the lower rooms. These rooms in the wing are quite modern in appearance, being papered and painted; and seeming very comfortable. From the closet were brought for our inspection two linen counterpanes of unknown age, woven in the house from flax grown upon the farm. Here too, we found a handsome linen table cloth which belonged to Ebenezer Fairbanks junior, who lived on the old place from 1758 to 1832. It is probably over 100 years old, and the design represents the American Eagle and the motto "E Pluribus Unum." In the border is woven the name of the maker, W. W. Coulson, Lisburn, Ireland.

Retracing our steps, we found ourselves in the front entry again, from which we went up the enclosed stairway, where the chimney bricks show, to the floor above. The more we investigated this old part the more surprised we were that a wooden house could have stood so long with such slight changes. The great brown timbers show plainly here, the upright posts widening out at the top to support the transverse beams. Yet, despite the roughness of the finish, much care is apparent in the shaping and ornamentation of the timbers. It is the evidence of this nice carpentry which is relied upon as furnishing proof, that the timbers were brought from England, for which belief there is a well established family tradition. The upper entry is about the same size as the one below, and is lighted by one window, the outside size of the entire casement being 17 by 22 inches. The window-panes are the 7 by 9 size.

The room over the parlor has been the family chamber through all the generations that have lived here. A great many of the best relics have been sold or given away, yet we find a store of curiosities remaining. A wooden tray, said to have

been brought from England, and a contribution box made of bark and fastened with thongs, which was once passed around among the congregation at "clapboard-trees" parish, by Deacon Benjamin Fairbanks, were among the most interesting articles.

The kitchen chamber, like the room above, has never been lathed or plastered. It is a large room, yet the light is admitted by one small window, 20 inches high and 28 inches wide. The entire window swings outwardly from the side. Long we linger in this dark chamber, searching the dim corners for souvenirs of days gone by. We found foot-warmers and spinning-wheels, candle-mounds, Dutch ovens, and other articles of domestic use. Then we ran across a pannier, such as our grandsires slung along the old mare's side when going to mill or up to the post-office. An ox saddle was a still greater curiosity; yet from out of the depths of the gloom we brought to light the frame of an old window with a dozen of the diamond-shaped panes still remaining. We had about given up all hope of ever finding any of these panes in any house in New England. They were brought from England, and set in strips of lead, as putty was not in use at that time. The panes measure three and three-quarters inches across. The diamond-shaped pane was the first window-glass ever used in this country. The garret is reached by a ladder, and contains nothing but cobwebs. The eastern wing being newer, possessed no characteristics differing from other houses we have visited.

So much for the house. What of its people? Shall we find them as interesting as the home they have lived in? Let us read and see.

There are persons still living who remember Ebenezer Fairbanks, the last male of the line to live in the old homestead. He was a man of considerable importance



19a



The Old Homestead - The Fairbanks House, S.W. View.



in the town; a singer of more than local celebrity, his vocal gift securing him a position in the choir of the Congregational Church as well as many invitations to join the "singin'-schools" of the neighboring towns.

He had eight children. Calvin, the eldest, died in 1800, at the age of 22. His second son William, married Mille Farrington of Dedham, and had four children. The youngest Sarah, is still living, the wife of Augustus B. Endicott, sheriff of Norfolk County. William Fairbanks died Feb. 1, 1863, aged 78 years. Joshua, the youngest child of Ebenezer, was born Dec. 23, 1796. He lived in Dedham near the old homestead of which he inherited a part. He married Clarissa Bird of Stoughton in 1816 and had six children. The youngest was Rebecca, who is now (1897) the sole owner of the ancestral home. Joshua Fairbanks died October 27, 1865.

Of the five daughters of Ebenezer and Mary Fairbanks, two were married, — Sukey Davis Fairbanks to Jason Ellis of West Dedham, and Mary Fairbanks to Nahum Harrington of Westboro. The three unmarried daughters remained at home, and, after the death of their father, continued to occupy the old house till death separated them. Many stories have been told regarding the eccentricities of these three old ladies; but, like all gossip, we found the most of the tales were not true. It was asserted that they could not agree together, and that each lived in a separate part of the house, occupying individual chambers, and at times refusing to see each other for days and weeks at a time.

Indeed remorseless scandal mongers, regardless of probabilities, pointed at the three stair-cases, and asserted that these were built to accommodate the whims of these ill-assorted sisters. We want to state, as a matter of justice, that these things are not so. It is true that

the sisters occupied separate apartments during the last years of their lives; but it was not from any dislike to each other, but from the natural desire of old folks to be alone. They had their peculiarities, as might have been expected; yet as long as they lived they had their meals together and attended to the household duties in turn, each one doing the work for a week. And although the dilapidation of the house made the task of keeping it in order rather difficult, their house-keeping was of the first order. The painted stairs in the eastern wing, were never ascended without removing the shoes. The woodwork was scrubbed and polished until it shone. We can well believe that the house was a pleasant home during the occupancy of the three sisters.

Prudence, the eldest of the three, died March 26, 1871, at the ripe old age of 89 years, 11 months, and 12 days. Sarah or 'Sally' as she was called, died May 12, 1877, aged 87 years, 3 months, and 16 days. Nancy, the last of the family, died Jan. 19, 1879, aged 81 years, 4 months, and 16 days. Miss Rebecca Fairbanks lived at the old house with her three aunts during the last years of their lives.

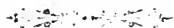
Throughout the 258 years which have passed over it, the house has never been deeded. A Fairbanks built it, his descendants have always owned and occupied it. During the summer of 1902 a severe thunder-storm passed over the town. Miss Rebecca was alone in the house and had just retired, her dog lying under the bed as usual. A bolt of lightning struck the house, passed through the room where Miss Fairbanks was lying and killed the dog. Although much frightened, Miss Fairbanks was uninjured. Yet so strong was her dread of the place and of being alone there, that she removed to Boston, the following winter. The house was let, and for the first time in its history it was occupied by





strangers. Miss Fairbanks returned there in the summer, and still lives there.

We feel sure that the people of Dedham will regret of losing such an interesting old house. As a branch of the antiquarian rooms at the centre, the Fairbanks house would prove a great attraction to visitors. At present it divides attention with the society's room. The old house should not come down. It can never be replaced.



#### Michael Metcalf Family.



MICHAEL Metcalf, the emigrant ancestor of this family, was born in Tatterford, County of Norfolk, England, baptized "17th die June 1587." He married Sarah, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Ellwyn, Oct. 13, 1616. She was born in Helgham, England, on the 17th of June, 1593.

His father, Leonard Metcalf, narrowly escaped the scaffold in 1569, when he joined in the rising in the North, in the interest of Mary, Queen of Scots. He was captured and condemned, but his execution was "stayed" to wait the Queen's pleasure,—and finally he was released, as he was announced to be "a very quiet honest gentleman." His large estates at Yorkshire, however, were taken from him, after which he left the county and settled in Norfolk, where several of his children were born. It was in troublous times that Michael was born; being a very zealous nonconformist, he was often involved in controversies with his Bishop. By occupation he was a "Dornix weaver." This Dornix was a kind of stuff used for Curtains, Carpets, and Hangings. So called from Doornick or Tournay, a city in Flanders, where it was first made. He was highly thought of, a prominent man in the city of Norwich, where he was made a Freeman, June 21, 1618. Eleven children were there

born to Michael and Sarah. Being a zealous Puritan he was hated and bitterly persecuted by the Bishop of Norwich, Matthew Wren, who twenty years afterwards, when Cromwell was in power, was brought to trial for his persecution of the Puritans. The days came when Michael was obliged to flee for his life, and the following extracts are taken from a copy of his letter written in Plymouth, England, Jan. 13, 1636, directed, "To all the true professors of Christ's Gospel within the City of Norwich."

"I was persecuted," he writes, "in the land of my fathers' sepulchres, for not bowing at the name of Jesus, and observing other ceremonies in religion forced upon me, at the instance of Bishop Wren of Norwich and his Chancellor Dr. Corbet, whose violent measures troubled me in the Bishop's Court, and returned me into the High Commissioner's Court. Suffering many times for the cause of religion, I was forced, for the sake of the liberty of my conscience, to flee from my wife and children, to go into New England; taking ship for the voyage at London the 17th of Sept. 1636; being by tempests tossed up and down the seas till the Christmas following; then veering about to Plymouth in Old England, in which time I met with many sore afflictions. Leaving the ship, I went down to Yarmouth, in Norfolk County, whence I snipped myself and family to come to New England; sailed 15th April, 1637 and arrived three days before midsummer, with my wife, nine children, and a servant." In a postscript he remarks, "My enemies conspired against me to take away my life, and, sometimes, to avoid their hands, my wife did hide me in the roof of the house, covering me with straw."

This letter from which the extracts are taken, is a long one, written probably after his first attempt to leave; he speaks of himself as an *exile* from his wife and

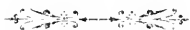


children, "with whom he would gladly have continued, *if with liberty*." This letter will be printed in full with others in the 'Metcalf Genealogy,' when published.

He settled at once in Dedham, near to his old friend Jonathan Fayerbanke, where he was admitted a townsman, July 14, 1637, joining the church in 1639, made a selectman in 1641. His name stands first in the committee chosen to "contrie the fabrick of a meeting house."

Here his eldest son Michael, met and won his bride, Mary, the eldest daughter of Jonathan Fayerbanke. To them five children were born. Michael Junior died in the 34th year of his life; Mary afterwards married Christopher Smith of Dedham, by whom she had one son.

The descendants of Michael and Mary are now numbered by the many thousands, composing names eminent in Literature, Science, Politics, and Art—such names as the Ware's, Everett's, Huntington's, Quineys'.



### Origin of a Family Name.



Some centuries since, as tradition makes known,

An Englishman, plucky and stout,  
On entering a certain enclosure alone,  
Was told he had better keep out—

That a dangerous bull in the pasture was kept,

From which he'd be sure of attack;  
"Never fear," said the yeoman, as bravely  
he stepped

O'er the stile, "let the weakest" turn back.

He passed unmolested till half-way  
across,—

When the bull his appearance put in,

With his two horny bayonets, ready to toss  
The intruder and riddle his skin.

He rushed on his foe with his nose to the ground,

Closing up, ere collision, his eyes;  
When the man on the watch sprang aside  
with a bound

Very much to the creature's surprise.

'Twas a furious charge, yet the brute  
nothing hit

Non-resistance his tactics confused:  
Just what to do next was too much  
for his wit,

In his confidence so much abused.

On the instant, the man, while foe is at his fault,

Grasps hold of the animal's horns,  
His turn having come, as he deems, to  
assault.

Though advantage of weapons he scorns.

Then giving a sudden and powerful twist  
Of the horns, with his sinewy hands,  
The joints of the spinal—they could not  
resist,

And *drod* dropped the bull on the sands.

"Did he meet the wild bull?" he was asked  
the next day

"Not a *bull*," unconcerned he replied,  
But he *had* met a *calf* and attempted to  
play

With the weak little thing, when it died.

*Met-a-calf*, as contracted to Metcalf,  
became

Our forefather's cognomen then;  
And it has ever since, as a family name,  
Been respectably known amongst men.

—HENRY B. METCALF.





HON. WILSON HENRY FAIRBANK  
of Warren, Mass.,  
1st Vice-President "FAIRBANKS FAMILY,"  
Commissioner to the Louisiana Exhibition  
from Massachusetts, appointed  
by the Governor.




HON. ALFRED S. ROE  
of Worcester, Mass.



HON. RUFUS G. FAIRBANKS,  
Treasurer of the  
"FAIRBANKS FAMILY in America."



# A Sunday in the Old Meeting-house.

T was a clear, cold, bright morning in February, 1659 — (1658, 12 mo., it was then called). If there had been such a thing as a thermometer in town, the mercury would have been mostly down in the bulb; but Fahrenheit wasn't born over there in Prussia for thirty years yet. It was one of those mornings when the snow crystals sparkle in the sun and creak under the feet of men and horses; but there was no sound of runners or of sleigh-bells, for all the riding then was on horseback. The snow whistled around the ears of travellers as the sharp north wind eddied it about, and the breaths of men congealed upon their fur caps. George Barber had beat his first Sunday drum-call an hour after sunrise; and men were busy about their cattle, sheep, and other stock, the goodwives hurrying the breakfast things away, and all are getting ready to "go to meet'n." Another hour passes; and the second drum-call sounds out on the keen air, this time from the top of the meeting-house roof, the better to be heard down in "Brigstreet" and across the river at Sherborn "Farms."

The tithing-man appeared with his staff of office, and set the great door ajar, so that the earlier comers might get in out of the cold wind. There was no artificial heat in the building, colder and more damp as it seemed to grow with each succeeding week of the coming winter. It was a hundred and seventy years yet before such a thing as warming the meeting-house was thought of in old Medfield.

If we were coming toward the place that day, we would wonder what those strange ornaments were which bedecked the house on each side of the door and under the windows, — *wolves' heads*, brought in and nailed to the walls so as to get the bounty.

The wolf was a villanous beast, and very destructive to lambs, pigs, calves, and young stock generally, the most hated of all the wild beasts then infesting the town. Everybody was interested in having him killed, and a good liberal bounty was paid for every head of a wolf brought in. But nail it up: the town does not want to pay bounty on the same head twice.

Those windows looked small, and they were not very numerous; it must be rather hard for Parson Wilson to read his long manuscript which he wrote evenings by the light of the tallow candle. But those windows are real glass, diamond panes, lead sashes, bought in Boston.

On the door were sundry notices. Let us read: —

---

Robert Mason of Medfield intends marriage with Abigail Eaton of Dedham.

---

Strayed away from me. 1 red steer. 2 years old, has the Medfield brand on the rump, and my mark, namely, — two holes through the top of the left ear, and one notch on the inside edge of the other.

JOHN BOWERS. Oct. 20, 1658.

---

Selectmen for the year of 1658, in the town of Medfield: —

Timothy Dwight, Robert Hinsdale, John Thurston, George Barber, Daniel Morse, Henry Smith, and Henry Adams.

HENRY ADAMS, *Clerk of the Writs.*

## SALE.

Mr. Wilson will sell, on the 15th day of March, a surplusage of corn and salt pork received by him in part payment of his salary.

## TOWN MEETING.

The inhabitants of this town qualified to vote in town affairs will assemble on the 28th day of February, 1659, to see what bounty the town will allow upon the grown





wolves, squirrels, and blackbirds, killed within the limits of this town, or do or act anything relating thereto.

Attest: JOHN FRANKY, *Constable*.

But it was time for the people to begin to appear, the farthest off arriving first, as usual, — George Fairbanks, from the "Farms," in what is now Millis, but close to Sherborn line. His twelve year old daughter, Mary, was riding behind him on the pillion. There were neighbors at the "Farms" (now South Sherborn), Nicholas Wood, Thomas Holbrook, and Henry Leland. They attended church here in pleasant weather, though they were out of Medfield bounds and our tithing-men had no authority to bring them to church. They did not steal their preaching, though, but helped pay the minister till they built their first meetin'-house near "Farm pond." It was so early that morning when Fairbanks and his daughter came that he said that he *must go over to Joshua Fisher's "ordinary,"* and warm up before the meeting.

Pretty soon the people from Bridge Street were seen coming; also, Henry Adams from Mill-brook, and old Thomas Boyden. He had married Widow Morse a short time before; and she came with him, gayly riding on the pillion, *his* grown-up children by his first wife, and *hers* by her first husband, soberly trudging on foot from their lane, now Pound Street.

The dwellers in the village — Mr. Wheelock, the Fishers, Barbers, Frairys, Dwights, Bullards, Metcalfs, Thurstons, Wights — and others, from different directions, now came dropping in, and took their seats. Those seats were not upholstered, — just rough board benches without backs, less comfortable drowsing-places than modern pews. There were some queer-looking pouches nailed to the front of many seats. Those were fur bags, made of wolf skin, into which the people thrust their feet during the long service, to

keep them from freezing, especially the women. The men let their dogs come in, often, and lie at their feet, in cold weather, as a sort of animated food-warmer.

These rough, uncomfortable seats occasioned a complicated state of things in those days. To begin with, as soon as the house was built, the seats were "dignified"; that is, each seat in the house was ranked, from the front centre by the desk to the rear bench in the gallery. Then a committee chosen in town meeting assigned the people to their seats, according to their estimated standing in town; and there each man and woman must sit. Usurping another person's seat called down a fine upon the offender. The men sat on one side of the house by themselves, the women by themselves. The younger girls sat with their mothers, or near them, no little stools in the alley-way. The boys had a domain allotted to them near the pulpit, where the tithing-man could superintend their behavior. Sometimes the girls in the alley-way needed a little supervision, too.

The desk, or pulpit, was elevated somewhat over the floor level. It was made of oak, with a semicircular panelled front, and rudely ornamented. It was approached by several steps, and the boys were sometimes directed to take the pulpit steps for their seats. "Boys will be boys." On the desk stood the hour-glass, which was to be turned at the proper time by the tithing-man or by the deacon, who had his seat directly in front of the preacher, and facing the congregation.

Robert Hinsdale had remarked to John Pratt, as they two were coming along over Vine Brook bridge near the meeting-house, that he meant to have a bell for this town, and that he knew of one in Boston that he could buy, and, if the town would give him a tract of land on Boggestow Brook that he wanted, he would buy the bell and



exchange it for the land. John Pratt said he would speak to the selectmen about it, and have the matter brought up at the town meeting.

James Allen, who had just come in from his house on South Street, remarked that the sound of a bell once more, calling the people to meeting, would almost take him back to the old country. He said he well remembered in the time of the persecutions when Archbishop Laud's soldiers came and marched his grandfather off to prison for preaching to the Puritan meeting, and, when the poor old man tried to speak to them, they drowned his voice by beating the drums. He never could bear to hear the sound of a drum since. Young Isaac Chenery said he liked the drum well enough for Sundays and "lectur days," but the sound of a bell did seem better at funerals, and he would vote for it.

Deacon Samuel Bullen now came and took his seat. Mr. Wilson and his wife appeared at the door. The tithing-man rapped with his pole upon the floor, the people all rose and stood till Mr. Wilson sat down in the pulpit, when they also sat.

Several people "put up notes," as it was called, which were read by Mr. Wilson at the outset: Isaac Chenery, for the birth of a son; Alexander Lovell, on account of his wife's sickness; Gershom Wheelock, for the death of an infant child; Eleazer Frairy, being about to take a journey to the Connecticut River.

The exercise of the morning then began with singing from the Bay Psalm-book. Not many of the people had books. Mr. Wilson, Mr. Wheelock, George Barber, the deacon, and a few others, of course, were able to have and use books: but, as some were not fluent readers, and the rest did not know the words by heart, it was necessary to have them "lined off,"—that is, the first line was read by some one and then it was sung, the second and succeed-

ing line treated the same way through the whole psalm. The congregation knew only about three or four tunes, mostly in common metre,—i. e. lines of *eight* and lines of *six* syllables alternating; and these were old English or Scotch tunes, much perverted by many years of singing entirely by guess. But, as those who struck the word first had to hold on to it till the rest could get hold, the notes were dragged out to a fearful length, a man once declaring that he had to take breath twice in one note. After the line was read, some man who could (or thought he could), started off on a tune; and the rest followed, one **part** being all that was aspired to. There was no instrument of any kind, no pitch-pipe nor choir; and if he who "tuned the psalm," as they called it, was fortunate enough to guess at the right pitch, so that the tune would come within the range of the voices, "without squeaking too high or grumbling below," the psalm might be got through with.

That day in Medfield it was the 137th psalm that was to be sung in the astonishing versification of the "Bay Psalm-book":—

"The rivers on, of Babylon,  
There, where we did sit down,  
Yea, even then we mourned when  
We re-membered Zion.  
Our harp we did, hang it amid  
Upon the willow-tree,  
Because that they, that us away,  
Led in captivity."

Deacon Samuel Bullen gave out the first line,—

"The rivers on, of Babylon."

Goodman Fussell started the tune: he used to do it in the Puritan meetings in old England pretty well, as he thought.

But being now somewhat into years, besides having a cold, in trying to strike the pitch, his voice broke into a sort of



"Dutch warble," which completely upset the beginning of the tune.

His neighbor, Edward Adams, came to the rescue; but pitching his voice much too high for the tune "Windsor," which he intended to give out, the congregation mistook and started off on "St. Ann's." He pulled lustily for "Windsor" for a while, but "St. Ann's" carried the day, and he had to give in.

No reading of the Scripture was allowed except quotations for immediate comment, as that savored the liturgy; and no repetition of the Lord's Prayer, for the same reason. But the people all stood while the "long prayer" was made by the pastor; and a long one it was, forty minutes in length.

But no person in the house must be guilty of so much disrespect for the prescribed order of things as to sit down before its conclusion, except women who had infants in their arms.

John Plimpton tuned the next psalm. He succeeded in pitching the "Windsor" all right, and the people got through with the lines of the first verse safely. But Goodman Thurston, who had just found the place in his old Psalm-book, and who had a strong voice, started the second verse with "Old Hundred," the people following him who sang the loudest. If the tune had been in the same metre as the psalm, the congregation would have ended in "Old Hundred" good and strong; but, when they came to the short line, disaster overtook them, and Thurston retired in good order, leaving his competitor in possession of the field.

It seems hardly possible that such versifications as those then in use could be sung by anybody; but we must remember that, as long as there was the right number of syllables in the line, there was no trouble, all syllables being sung of the same slow length. Anything like accent or rhythm was thought to detract from the character of the performance.

A man who could "tune the psalm" was much set by in the old times. Many years later Nathan Plimpton, who had been set aside from the old parish church for discipline, was requested to "tune the psalm as heretofore," from which we infer that there was not a surplus of musical ability in town at that time.

Ephraim Wight's little daughter, born on the last Tuesday, was brought in for christening, according to the custom, on the Sunday succeeding birth. The deacon kindly *broke the ice* in the christening bowl before Mr. Wilson performed the ceremony.

The hour-glass was set, and the sermon began. The sand was about half run out when old Goodman Rockwood was taken with the cramp, which was often the case with this hard-working farmer when he sat in one position long, as he had now been doing while much interested in the discourse. His movements, as he hopped about in the aisle upon one foot, were a source of great satisfaction to the girls who were sitting by their mothers, just back of him.

Mr. Wilson paused till the old farmer got both feet on the floor, he concluding to stand for the rest of the time. But Thomas Grubb's wife had brought her obstreperous infant that morning; and it had been perversely fretting for some time, the most generous and manifest motherly attentions being totally lost upon the petulant spirit, though without attracting special notice. But the long continuance of her efforts was wearisome, and a change of position, all "unmindful of the secret pin which keenly goaded him within," brought forth a series of yells from that infant, which again caused a stay of proceedings.

The hour-glass had to be turned before the sermon was through. And the sacrament followed, when the bread was found to be frozen solid, and rattled in the plates like pebbles.



Now came the noon hour. The congregation stretched its chilled limbs and stamped its feet. The near-by dwellers resort to their home firesides. The elderly women and those with babies are invited to partake of warmth and good cheer with them. The men go and stir the horses that have been cringing under the open-air shelter only during the forenoon. Some ride to their farms, to see that all is right. The elder boys ride somewhere, indefinite as to destination. A good many munch their cold dinners on the sunny side of the house or by a window inside; while a few go over to the "ordinary," and discuss topics having no special relation to the day.

Daniel Morse broached a plan he had in mind, and said that, when he moved over to the "Farms," he meant to get leave from the selectmen to put up a building in which he could tie his horses at one end, and at the other have a chimney and fireplace, where he and his folks could go and stay at the noon hour. Henry Adams said they did that way down in Braintree, where he used to live, and he didn't see why three or four families might not join together and build a little larger, so as to have room for them all. (They did this a while after, and there were several of these "noon houses" as suburbs to the meeting-house.)

But George Barber beat his drum again, and those who had scattered a little while ago began to gather. More of the young have come: the children look funny in their small-size old folks' clothes. There were no special fashions for children's clothing. The women, coming from the cheerful firesides of the village, full of warmth and dinner, chatted merrily, and seemed full of courage also to tackle the freezing temperature of the meeting-house again. In fact, the sun had not been shining in vain; and the cold had become a little softer than in the morning.

When the people were once more in their seats, Mr. Wilson arose and said that he had something very important to speak of at this time. By news just come from England, it gave him great pain to learn that our steadfast friend and ruler, Lord Protector of the realm, Oliver Cromwell, was no more. In the midst of one of the most terrific storms that ever shook the British Isles the spirit of that noble Puritan had taken its departure. It was feared by many, he said, that the son, Richard Cromwell, would never be able to make his father's place good, that he would be overborne by a reaction, and that Prince Charles might come to throne after all, in which case no man can tell what was to become of our liberties.

The afternoon services began much in the same way as had the morning; but, just as Deacon Bullen was about to commence lining out a psalm, a man rushes in, and says, "There is a smoke in the thatch on John Ballard's house: it must be afire." A dozen men at once seized the meeting-house ladder and some buckets that were kept near the inside of the door, and rushed to the house that was in danger. In the excitement several of the boys slipped out, but they were speedily told that they could do no good and would only be in the way. So the tithing-man took the disgruntled youngsters back to their seats. The fire was soon put out, and the men came back their places. The singing being over, the sermon began; it was a learned discussion upon a difficult point of doctrine. As it went on to tenthly, some of the women did not appear to be following the argument very closely, and, in fact, seemed to be on the verge of dream-land. The tithing-man grasped his pole, some six feet long, a knob of wood at one end and a fox tail at the other, ready for emergencies. Pretty soon John Turner's wife, who had been over home with Mrs.





Wheelock at noon, and who sat a little way back from the front, began to nod assent to the successive steps in the argument very decidedly. The tithing-man got his eye on her, and the girls from their seats were watching with great interest the progress of affairs. Moving silently down the alley-way, he brushed her face with the fox-tail. Wakening at this, the good woman straightened up on her bench, and became deeply interested all at once, with a look upon her face which said, "Who said I am sleepy?" The girls got a glance from the tithing-man, and their countenances became the very pink of soberness forthwith.

Goodman Fussell's cold made his head feel rather heavy, and before long he was treating the congregation to a style of breathing more sonorous than musical. The tithing-man now conceived his duties to be on the men's side of the house. The boys also were wide-awake, and were on the sharp lookout for developments. They had not long to wait. Selecting a good position, the official gave the sleeper a vigorous dig in the ribs with the hard end of the pole, upon which he awoke with a snort that was altogether too much for young John Plinton's superabundant animal spirits; and he ha-haed aloud to the great scandal of the whole congregation. The tithing-man looked fiercely at him, but took no further notice of it then, which boded no good to John later. Sam Smith kept on tittering after the principal excitement was over, in spite of all efforts to repress his mirth by holding his nose and otherwise; and he caught a rap on the head with the same knob that had waked up old Goodman Fussell.

Quiet and attention now reigned for a while till another event brought out a second breach of decorum from John Plimp-ton, Jr., and inaugurated a season of special interest among the boys. John

Turner's old dog, Roundhead, which had been lying curled up peacefully about his master's feet, chanced to look out of the corner of his eye and observed Benjamin Alby's mastiff, Cavalier, which had been on similar service at a neighboring seat, pricking up his ears and looking intently at him. These two dogs had never been on the best of terms, as their names might indicate; and Roundhead soon indulged in a feeble utterance much resembling a suppressed growl. This was responded to on the part of Cavalier by just the least bit of a snap and a wrinkling of the lip, showing a tusk or two. Another dog not far off—Peter Adam's Admiral—roused himself, and signified his desire to mingle in the debate; and the three were soon on their feet, snarling at each other. Whereupon the dog-puncher arose from his place, pikestaff in hand, and drove the yelping pack out of the house. Only the truly good dogs remained. It was during the height of this mêlée that John's second overflow of mirth took place; and of this "ha-ha" no notice was taken,—another bad omen. Sam Smith kept up giggling and shaking with his pent-up mirth as before, and was at length favored with a second rap, with the same knob and in the place as on the former occasion, which caused an instant transmutation of feeling to something much less kindly, judging from the glare of his eye as he sat scowling at the tithing-man through the rest of the sermon.

Mr. Wilson had now passed nineteenthly and come to lastly, and the sermon ended.

At the close of sermon was the time of confessions on the part of those who had lapsed from rectitude and had thus come under censure. That afternoon John Ellis rose, he was conscious of wrong-doing in that he had spoken disrespectfully of Deacon Bullen in alluding to his keeping Sarah Daniel, a comely young woman from Cam-



bridge, in his family as a helper for his wife, and his having on two occasions allowed her to ride to meeting with him, all which remarks were wholly unjust and uncalled for. Also, he regretted having given way to his temper in firing at and wounding one of Goodman Frairy's pigs which came across the brook into his garden. Mr. Wilson said that Goodman Ellis had made a proper acknowledgment of his wrong, but counselled him to have care over his uncharitable judgment, his unguarded manner of speech, and his hasty temper.

All through that afternoon a wizened-looking woman had been sitting on a three-legged stool directly in front of the desk, clad in garments patched, shabby, and defiled. This was the stool of repentance. She had been guilty of backbiting, idle babbling, and lying. She arose upon invitation of the tithing-man; and the good pastor reproved her before all most sharply for her manner of life, calculated, he said, to sow discord among brethren, and bring reproach upon our fair town. He counselled her, however, with the great kindness characteristic of his fatherly heart, to renounce these, her evil propensities, and being now made to know her wrong-doings, to guard herself from it in the future.

Then the minister with his wife passed out of the house, all the people standing in their places till he was gone. This was generally the signal for dispersion; but to-day there was yet another matter to be settled, and all tarried. The tithing-man brought out a good reliable switch; and he of the multitudinous ha-has received a good sound dose of it, the people regarding it as richly deserved and adapted to be of wide benefit to this community. Perhaps it was so to him. Do not despair of John Plimpton, Jr. In a few years he will be among the 101 soldiers raised in four hours' time at Boston to march under

Captain Mosely to the the relief of Swansey; he will go with Mosely's men to Deerfield, and with them avenge the massacre of Bloody Brook; he will be in that fearful fight in the Narragansett swamp, and in the terrible march home through the snow from thence; he will help defend us from the savage foe, and do a creditable part towards making our homes safe from further incursions. His fund of animal spirits will be serviceable in good time, notwithstanding his disastrous experience in church to-day.

Then the dwellers near by trudged on foot to their homes. The comers from far led up their horses, nettled and prancing with cold and long abstinence, to the horse-block, jumped quickly with wife and child upon their backs, and rode decorously though swiftly away through the winding cartways and bridle-paths to their rude dwellings in the scattered clearings, where the blazing hearth-fire and a substantial meal soon made them welcome,—rude, yet "home sweet home." Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home."

And thus ended the "goin' to meet'n" of a winter's day in the olden time, such as might have happened in our native town of Medfield.

One of the noblest of all ties, and one of the mightiest for holding together the fabric of society, is the love of kindred. Next to the love of God it is the strongest of all those sweet forces which serve to bind communities, large and small, into one grand universal brotherhood.

Reverence for the past, for all that has been true and good and great in it, is one of the highest private and public virtues. Never was its influence more needful, in the composition and actions of the ruling elements in the American society than now.



## Our Canadian Cousins.

22

On the opposite page we present the portrait of one of the most distinguished men of the past century. Hon. Charles Rufus Fairbanks was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on the 25th of March, 1799. How he came to be born there instead of in the old Bay State is one of the little romances of the early Colonial days.

His father's uncle, Joseph Fairbanks was born in Sherborn, Mass., Sept. 1718, he was commissioned a Lieut. of Foot by Gov. Shirley in 1755. It was his good fortune to be present at the siege of Louisburg; after its capture instead of returning to Boston and home, he went to Halifax and settled there, becoming a wealthy and very influential man. Though married twice he had no children, so he sent to the States for his nephew Joseph, then about twenty years of age, to come and live with him. The vessel in which the young man took passage from Boston, was forced to go back for repairs, and winter coming on, Joseph returned to his father's home at Sherborn; the next spring his father moved to Brimfield and he gave up the opportunity of going to Halifax to his cousin Rufus, then a student in his Senior year at Dartmouth College. His cousin Rufus became a prominent magistrate in the young city, inherited a large property from his uncle, erecting there several buildings. In Halifax, Rufus married Ann Prescott, daughter of Jonathan Prescott, who had also gone over to participate in the Louisburg battle. Ann Prescott was a lineal descendant from John Prescott, the founder of Lancaster, whose daughter Lydia, Jonas Fairbank marries, thus the Halifax line has a double Colonial ancestry.

Joseph Fairbanks was not only a farmer, but a natural mechanic; in 1815 he decided to sell out his farm at Brimfield

and move to Vermont, where he settled and where with his oldest son Erastus, built a dam, a saw mill, a grist mill and wagon shop. Joined in their work was a second son Thaddeus, who was the inventor of the famous Fairbanks scales, known the world over. This was the foundation of the famous firm of E. & T. Fairbanks Co. But for that vessel being forced to return to Boston, Joseph would have been a resident of Canada and the scales not a yankee invention.

Charles Rufus Fairbanks was the oldest son of Rufus. He was a good scholar, fitted to enter college at the early age of fourteen years. He possessed a remarkable talent for the acquisition of the modern languages. He was admitted to the bar in 1811, appointed King's Counsel 1829. Solicitor General 1832, Judge of Chancery 1831. Was elected to the House of Assembly in 1823, continuing to represent the town until 1834, when he was appointed Judge. He spent considerable time in London, England, to secure capital for the Shubenacadie Canal, and while there, attended the Coronation of Queen Victoria. Campbell's History of Nova Scotia, places him among the best and most noted of men of his day. He had thirteen children, one of whom married Henry Charles Darling Twining, Esq., clerk of the House of Representatives.

Considerable space was given this fall in English and American papers, to the Marchioness of Donegal, who on Oct. 8th presented the Marquis with a son and heir. The romantic side is, that the Marquis is 81 years old, whilst the Marchioness is but 23. Violet Twining was her maiden name, a great grand-daughter of Hon. Charles Rufus. Thus the little Earl of Belfast is one of the descendants of Jonathan Fayerbanke of Dedham. Long life to the Earl, as well as to his beautiful mother the Marchioness.





HON. CHARLES RUFUS FAIRBANKS.  
Born in Halifax, N. S., March 29, 1790.





### Items of Interest.

The article on, "A Sunday in the Old Meeting-house" is from the pen of William S. Tilden, the Historian, of Medfield. It is taken from his little "Souvenir." Capt. George Fairbanks is mentioned, also others of Fairbanks connections in ye olden time.

A correspondent writes, "The beautiful Certificate reached me this morning. I have taken it to the Art store to have it framed and then shall give it honored place on the walls of my room." The consensus of opinion is, that we have a Certificate worthy of the family, thanks to Director Arthur W. Fairbanks, M. D. of Boston.

Capt. Henry N. Fairbanks, our President, is a busy man. He is General Agent for the State of Maine for the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Co. He has served his city of Bangor in the Council, and his State in the legislature, is a prominent member of the G. A. R. and the Loyal Legion.

The Emeline Fairbanks Library, is the name of Terre Haute's (Ind.) new library. \$50,000 has been given the city for this, and doubtless half as much more will follow. Crawford Fairbanks was born in that city and is one of its prominent citizens. His father was Mayor of the city, twenty-five years ago; he gives this library to the city in memory of his mother.

The town of Ashburnham, Mass., has received the \$10,000, from the estate of Jacob H. Fairbanks, late of Fitchburg, for a Memorial building. Cushing Academy also is the richer by about one hundred and fifty-thousand dollars from the same estate. Mr. Fairbanks died in May, 1902, before the talk of buying the

old homestead, had he lived till now, it is quite probable that he might have bought this place also, for the family, as he was well known to the Secretary.

Col. Melvin O. Adams, a distinguished attorney of Boston, and President of the Lynn & Boston Narrow Gauge R.R. is President of Cushing Academy Board of Trustees. He makes a gift to his native town of Ashburnham, of a Soldiers Monument, the cost of which will be fully \$5,000, to be erected in front of the new Memorial Building. The Colonel is a great-grand son of Drumm Major Cyrus Fairbank of Revolutionary fame.

Who is going to cheer the hearts of the Board of Directors of the "Fairbanks Family" by sending in a check to buy the old homestead as a deed of remembrance to some noble ancestor? A rare opportunity is offered this family to do great things for home, posterity, and native land.

### Afflavit Deus.

The day was fading fast,

'Twas late in the autumn tide,  
Cold blew the north wind's blast  
As home a young man hied.

He noted not the darkening sky,

He noted not the frosty wind,  
For the pulse of life beat high  
And joy o'ertilled his mind.

He gains at last the humble cot,

Bright glows the fire in rustic grate;  
Him greets a prattling chernob'ot,  
And smiling wife, his queenly mate.

They sit them down to frugal board;

Hearts full of joy and gratitude,  
In all the world's no richer board—  
'Tis soul of man with God imbued.

O'er homes like this the angels sing,

And shower heaven's choicest gifts.

From homes like this our strong men  
spring,

For homes like this our prayer uplifts,  
uplifts.

OLIVE E. FAIRBANKS TIFFANY.



# Ye Fayerbanke Historial.

A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED  
TO THE INTERESTS OF THE "FAIR-  
BANKS FAMILY IN AMERICA."

Subscription \$1.00 per Annum.

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WITH THE HISTORIAN.



## La Raison D'Etre.



WHEN in the course of human events, it seems necessary to add another to the multifarious journals that have been issued all over our land, and for a family to step out and assume among the families of the nation a unique position, to which the laws of nature and nature's God entitles them, a decent respect to the opinions of their brethren requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to such acts.



As ye Historian, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very

first, it seemeth good to endeavor to set forth in order a declaration, that all may know the certainty of those things which are believed among us.



There was in the days of Charles the First, when Laud was Archbishop of England, a certain man named Jonathan, whose surname was Fayerbanke, and his wife was Grace, of the house of Smith. It appears that after said Laud was made Archbishop in 1633, that the oppression and persecution of the Non-Conformists reached their height, so that the decade commencing with 1630, witnessed the great emigration from the old country. It was therefore, we think, to escape these persecutions, to find a spot where he could bring up his family in a Godly, manly way, without let or hindrance by slavish forms, "that Jonathan he from over the sea, he brought the old house and family tree."



Nearly 270 years have rolled away since our ancestor landed on these shores, during which time, the behest of the Creator has been carried out, "Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth, and subdue it," until now, at the dawn of the twentieth century, the seed has grown and spread, so that literally, its fruits are as the sands on the sea shore (*almost*) innumerable. Scattered from sea to sea over our vast domain, from pole to pole up and down this continent, over the seas to "the uttermost parts of the earth," the descendants of Jonathan have gone. Great captains of industries in many branches of the world's commerce are scions of our worthy ancestor,—others have won distinction in the field of letters, on the forum and in the pulpit, whilst many a legislative hall, aye even the Senate Chamber of the nation has



heard ringing words of counsel and cheer, so that, wherever his sons and daughters have gone, it has always been to uphold that which was noblest and best in life and living.



"To know nothing of our ancestry, or whence we came, to have no reverence for the precious memories of the past or interest in those who are to succeed us, is to ignore the elements and influences that have made us what we are," said the Hon. Marshall P. Wilder (a cousin to the Jonas line). This must have been the thought that actuated and stimulated our esteemed friend, the late Lorenzo Sayles Fairbanks, as he gave up many of the best years of his life, and finally life itself, in trying, not only to read *his* "title clear to a time honored ancestry," but that all the families of our name might thus be blessed.



The results were embodied in a volume of 850 pages, entitled "The Fairbanks Family in America," issued in 1897, giving a record of about 1500 families of the names of Fairbank-s, of which only a limited edition was printed. He knew that the book was not "as complete as it might be made," that "there are still unexplored fields," but with that steady persistence that characterized him he pressed on with the work, amid the disheartening toil, until at last ere the work was given to the family, he was called from time to eternity. To those of us who knew him, it was but to honor, respect and love him.



It was the privilege of your historian to come in personal touch and sympathy with the author and his work and to help collate and arrange some of the manuscripts, so that after his leaving us, we were able to push the work to completion on his outlined plans. Lorenzo Sayles Fairbanks, (des-

cendant from the oldest son John,) must ever be held in honored remembrance by all members of our family.



Now after a lapse of some four years, or about the Spring of 1901, it occurred to the writer that a "home-coming" of his particular branch, that of the descendants of "Jonas the bonny," would be a proper thing, and that Lancaster on the Nashua, should be the place of gathering, as it was thither Jonas wended his way about 1657, into the wilderness, to escape the restrictions to which he had been subjected in Boston town, and where he became one of the "Fathers of the Town," a noble specimen of manhood. He had a hard experience at home, for when about 26 years of age he had braved an order from the "General Court." An ancient book says, "A disposition among the common people to be extravagant caused the General Court (Oct. 3, 1651,) to enact that if a man was not worth two hundred pounds, he should not wear gold or silver lace or buttons, or points at the knees; and because of the scarcity of leather, they should not walk in great boots. The cut of "one walking in great boots" against the statute, is an exact copy of a person fashionably dressed at that period. Only two offenders of this law are mentioned, one of whom was Jonas Fayerbanke. His fine afterwards for some reason or other was remitted.



This home-coming of the descendants of Jonas and Lydia (Prescott) Fairbank was a great success. From far and near they came, cousins of all degrees; the day was an auspicious one, about two hundred were present, many from western and central states. The spot chosen for meeting was not far from the corn field of John Prescott, the pioneer of Lancaster, whose daughter, Jonas had married. Close by



is the historic cemetery, where are the graves of many of our ancestors, where also can be seen the broken head stones placed there more than 200 years ago, notably that of "Lieut. Jabez Fairbank," son of Jonas, the brave Indian fighter, the most celebrated of the family of his time. It is an historic spot, all the region abounding in history, poetry, and romance; it is near the wading place where the Indians crossed the river on the bay-path, at the time Jonas and his two children were massacred. Such interest was manifested in the family, that it was voted to hold the next reunion at Dedham, at the original homestead, where Jonas lived during his boyhood and young manhood, and that all the Fairbanks descendants of every name in all lines, be invited to come "home."



In accordance with that vote your secretary issued a circular call, mailing it to 3000 families whom he had succeeded in locating, inviting them to the "first home-coming" of all the descendants of Jonathan. About seven hundred responded to the call making it an event that never will be forgotten by those present. Over the scene, between two noble old elms, floated the national flag and the Fairbanks banner, 9 x 16 feet, containing in gold and black, silver and blue, the family emblem and coat of arms, with the motto, "Finem Respice," all on a field of gray. The most important business transacted at the meeting was the steps taken for the formation of an association and the purchase of the old homestead. A committee was appointed to take the necessary steps towards obtaining articles of incorporation and report at the meeting the coming year.

The old house was in holiday attire for the event and never looked more picturesque.

In the evening, 150 sat down to a "Family Supper," in the Berkeley Temple

parlors in Boston, presided over by the President, Prof. Henry Fairbanks, Ph.D. of St. Johnsbury, Vt., with the secretary for toast master. Many toasts and speeches were given by members from all over the country interspersed with music by the "Fayerbank Quartet." Special delight was taken in the "Fairbanks Jingles," written and read by Mrs. Margaret L. Ray. (See page 12.)



The committee on "Incorporation" took the matter in hand as soon as possible, so that on Feb. 7th of this year your secretary sent a circular to all the families on his list, in which he said, in part, —

"Your Committee have decided to incorporate as a Society for Historic Purposes with power to hold property, which under this act will be non-assessable and non-taxable. It is proposed to place the amount for the Certificates of Admission to the Family Association at One Dollar, in order that every man, woman and child may be members. A handsome Certificate will be printed, which will be a memento that our children's children will be proud to possess. There are large numbers of us who can afford to give a greater amount than one dollar, many have already expressed their intention of giving five, ten and twenty dollars, there are others who will give fifty and one hundred dollars, whilst we expect larger amounts from some of the friends.

Whatever your name may be, you and yours are off-shoots from this "Family Tree," whose branches spread out over the entire country and even across the seas. It is expected that each one of us will esteem it a great privilege to have the opportunity of becoming members of such a family association, and will take a deep interest in the perpetuation and preservation of this historic landmark, which already is looked to with pride by vast numbers outside our





family. Enclosed is a Subscription blank for you to fill out, please forward it to me at an early date, with the amount of your subscription, signing the names to whom you wish the Certificates made. An acknowledgement will be made to you of its receipt and Certificates mailed later. We wish to obtain possession of the property as soon as possible."



The Incorporators met on April 2d and adopted a "Constitution and By-law" as follows:—

ARTICLE I. This Corporation shall be known as and styled as:—"THE FAYERBANKE FAMILY IN AMERICA."

ORDER.

ARTICLE II. The collection and preservation of all matters pertaining to the history of the Fairbanks Family in America. The study of this material and the education of members in historical and antiquarian subjects relating to the family. The collection of Books, Pamphlets, Manuscripts and Articles referring to its history. The acquisition of the title and the preservation of the Homestead or Jonathan Fairbanks in the town of Dedham and the publication from time to time of such articles or papers as may be judged to be of interest or instruction to the members of the Family.

ARTICLE III. The membership shall embrace all lineal descendants of Jonathan Fayerbanke of Dedham, Mass., together with wives and husbands of said descendants upon the payment to the Corporation of the sum of One Dollar or more.

ARTICLE IV. The Officers shall consist of a President, Fifty or more Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, an

Historian, a Board of Seven Directors of whom five shall be men and two shall be women. The President, First Vice-President and Secretary shall be members of the Board. All the above Officers except Vice-Presidents after the First Vice-President, shall be chosen by ballot at the annual meeting of the Corporation which shall be held at Dedham, Mass., on the last Thursday of August in each year, and they shall hold office for one year or until their successors are chosen. All Vice-Presidents except the First Vice-President shall be appointed annually by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V. The Board of Directors shall have power to do all acts or things they may think or deem proper or advantageous for assisting or carrying on or out the objects of this Corporation. They shall have charge of all the property of the Corporation, superintend the Custodian and appoint the same, shall draw all orders on the Treasurer to pay current or unusual expenses of the Corporation, shall have power to fill any vacancy in any office in the Corporation whether caused by death, removal or withdrawal.

ARTICLE VI. The duties of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be such as usually pertain to their respective offices. The Treasurer shall furnish a bond to the Corporation satisfactory to the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII. The Custodian shall have the immediate custody and care, under the Board of Directors of all books, manuscripts and other property of the Corporation contained in its rooms or buildings, shall catalogue its property and do all possible at all times to increase and preserve the collection and property under his care. He shall acknowledge each and



every donation that may be made to the Corporation and shall at each annual meeting report the gifts, donations and purchases made since the last meeting. In addition he shall be responsible directly, for the custody of all the Corporation's property committed to his care. He shall as far as possible, mark all books, manuscripts and articles in the Corporation collection as its property, and when presented to the Corporation such articles shall be marked with the name of the donor and shall be recorded as his or her gift or loan.

ARTICLE VIII. The Board of Directors may assess an annual due not to exceed the sum of One Dollar.

ARTICLE IX. Fifteen members of the Corporation shall constitute a quorum and if no person present is authorized to preside, the members present may elect a chairman.

ARTICLE X. Special meetings of the Corporation may be called by the President or Board of Directors and shall be called on the written request of ten or more members of the Corporation.

ARTICLE XI. This constitution and by-laws may be amended or altered at any annual meeting or at a special meeting called for the purpose.

The following Officers were then elected for the first year:—

President, Prof. Henry Fairbanks, Ph.D., St. Johnsbury, Vt.; First Vice-President, Capt. Henry N. Fairbanks, Bangor, Me.; Secretary and Historian, Hon. John Wilder Fairbank, Boston.; Treasurer, Hon. Rufus G. Fairbanks, W. Medway, Mass.,—these together with Hon. Wilson H. Fairbank, Warren, Mass., Dr. Arthur

W. Fairbanks, Boston, Mrs. Alice Heath Dow, Braintree, Mass., Mrs. Martha M. Allen, Walpole, Mass., to constitute the Board of Directors.



During the year intervening between the first and second home-coming your Historian has used his spare time in searching for other descendants, until his list had increased to 5000 families, to whom a circular letter of invitation to the second home-coming was mailed, a full report of which is given in subsequent pages. He is convinced that there are at least 25000 more families scattered through the country who have no idea of their rich heritage. If he could give his entire time to it for the next three years, as he is willing to do, if proper financial assistance can be given most of the families can be found, several genealogical histories can be written, and a great historical work of almost incalculable interest and importance performed.

In order to carry out such work it requires money, not much however, money to be advanced merely until the work has been performed. Who will help in this line? Write your historian. Such a family circle gathered together would redeem the old homestead, give funds in plenty to care for it and cause the "Fairbanks' Homestead and Museum" to be a veritable mecca for all lovers of our country.



Having thus set in order, in a cursory manner, leading events up to the second home-coming, ye "Historial" is launched on the family sea, perhaps only for the current year, but in the hopes of greater things, that each of us may be stimulated to emulate our sires, to keep in touch with their heroic lives, and shoulder to shoulder, "Forward March" through these great days of the Twentieth Century.





Snap shot taken at the Business Meeting at 2d Home Coming, Aug. 27, 1903.  
The Secretary is outlining plans.



## Fairbanks Family Reunion.

(Reprinted in part from the reports in the several Boston  
Dailies.) August 28, 1903.



ONE of the characteristic family reunions of the summer was the gathering at Dedham of the Fairbanks family. This great family, large enough to make a city in itself, is a typical New England family. Founded by honest and God-fearing people it has lived up to the traditions of old New England, traditions that have made America the greatest country in the world. Far and wide over the States of America and the countries of the world the Fairbanks children have gone, and they have carried with them the high moral tone of New England, and the sturdy manhood and womanhood of the Fairbanks family."

## Old Fairbanks House.

"Standing in the center of a clump of ancient elms, and partly embowered in syringa bushes, at East street and Eastern avenue, Dedham, is the time-worn, weather-beaten building, the most ancient structure in the town—the old Fairbanks house. Its history is that of the town, and since its erection it has been the home of a Fairbanks, all of one family, the present occupant being Miss Rebecca Fairbanks of the seventh generation from Jonathan Fayerbanke, the original owner.

At this historic spot the descendants of Jonathan Fairebanke held their second annual family reunion. They went out on a special train from Boston, by street cars, carriages, barges, bicycles and autos. They numbered several hundred."

## National Colors.

"The grounds were decorated with national colors, the Fairbanks coat-of-arms, the motto, "Finem respice," and other suggestive designs in the family colors, old gold, blue and silver gray.

The old house, which is the property of

Mrs. J. Amory Codman and daughter of Boston, was opened to visitors through their courtesy. Since last year a corporation has been formed under the title of "The Fairbanks Family in America," and the association expects after another year has passed, to purchase the estate.

Descendants of Jonathan Fairebanke, the first of his name in America, and one of the town's original settlers, came from far and near. Many of the States in the Union had representatives, and others hailed from Canada and England.

All roads led to one spot—the town's most ancient building, the house said to have been erected by Jonathan Fairebanke in 1636, which was the year he came to the Dedham settlement.

Since the gathering of a year ago the honorary president of the association, Hon. Milton M. Fisher of West Medway, has died.

The forenoon of Thursday was spent in inspecting the grounds and the old house and its treasures of colonial times. At noon a luncheon was served. The afternoon was devoted to business matters and speechmaking.

The homestead committee, Judge Rufus Fairbanks, West Medway, chairman; Hon. Wilson H. Fairbank of Warren, Irving Smith of Somerville, Rev. Francis J. Fairbanks of Royalston, Capt. Henry N. Fairbanks of Bangor, Me.; Dr. Arthur W. Fairbanks of Boston, Warren H. Fairbanks of Harvard and Orin M. Lowe of Fitchburg, had charge of the grounds.

The committee which received was Mrs. Martha Metcalf Allen of Walpole, Miss Rebecca Fairbanks of Dedham, Mrs. Alice Heath Fairbanks-Dow of Braintree, Miss Mary A. Fairbanks of Caryville, Mrs. Faustina P. Arcey of Norwood, Mrs. Augustus B. Endicott of Dedham and Mrs. Abbie E. Fairbanks Mills of Fall River.





The Dedham Historical Society kept open house

After luncheon Professor Henry Fairbanks, president of the association, called the assemblage to order. Hon Rufus C. Fairbanks of West Medway, custodian and treasurer, made his report. It showed receipts of about \$500.

Hon. J. Wilder Fairbank of Boston, secretary and historian, made his report. Last year he was in communication with 3500 families of descendants of Jonathan Fairbanks in this country. This year the number has grown to 5200.

### Greeting from England.

Councillor Christopher Fairbank of Fern Bank, Newhey, Rochdale Eng., brought the greetings of the English Fairbanks to the American family in the following well chosen words:

MR. PRESIDENT,

Dear American Cousins:-

In the name, and on behalf of the English Branch of the great and honoured Fairbank family I greet you, with loving and affectionate salutations; and with the greatest satisfaction assure you all here present, at this the third reunion gathering of the American Fairbanks, that as a member of the British section, although severed by nearly 3,000 miles of ocean, nevertheless we are one family, one in feeling, one in desire and aim, endeavoring to be of service to our fellow men, and faithfully discharging that divine trust, which the Almighty has designed we should, to leave the world better than we found it.

In the name, and on behalf of the English Fairbanks I greet you, praying that you may continue to prosper, both numerically, and with material wealth, also that your name and influence may be a power of good and useful service, your members rise to eminent positions of greatness and honour in this vast Continent and Republic of America.

May these reunion gatherings be of increasing interest and service to everyone, to all who attend, and may exert a beneficial effect and power to every member of the family scattered throughout every State.

I wish you success in your movement to purchase and possess the Old Homestead, may it be the "Meeva," and rallying centre for the Fairbanks Family throughout the whole world.

At the close of the greetings, Secretary J. Wilder Fairbank proposed the following amendment to Article III of the Constitution and By Laws of the Association,

"Honorary members may be elected at the annual meeting, also by the Board of Directors. Their names may be proposed by any member of the Corporation, and they shall have all powers of voting, on signing the constitution and complying with the By Laws."

The amendment was received with much enthusiasm and unanimously carried. This opened the way for the reception into membership of the friends from England. On motion of Mrs. Charles E. Mills of Fall River, Mass. Councillor and Mrs. Christopher Fairbank and Miss Elizabeth Fairbank of Fern Bank, England were duly elected as members of the Corporation.

### Certificate.

Dr. Arthur W. Fairbanks of Boston, from the committee appointed by the Board of Directors to prepare a certificate, reported as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT AND COUSINS:-

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of our Family Association, last spring, our cousin Mrs. Dow and myself were appointed a committee to draft a family certificate.

We fully realized the honor conferred in entrusting us with this commission, which



in itself perhaps trivial, yet, has seemed to us in its sentiment to mean so much.

In their desire to give to each member of our family association some visible evidence of the bonds that unite us, the thought of the directors has been of deeper origin than the mere giving of an official evidence of such connection.

In the wearing hurried life we live, more and more are the sentiments crowded aside, more and more do we become the slaves of our daily duties and cares; so that even a great meeting like this becomes dimmed in our memory through the hurrying days and years. If however we have before us during the brief moments of freedom from "the cares that infest the day" something that will speak to our hearts of the bonds that bind us to the bravery of the past, we shall keep ever fresh and living the inspiration of our family ties.

Give therefore to our diploma, for it is a degree you are receiving, a degree in "Steady Ancestry," in Integrity and its conscious courage; give to it therefore the place of honor on your walls where it may be before you day by day.

Place one in the hands of each of your children; do not allow them to put it away in some drawer; have it framed and place it on the walls of their rooms; that each morning, during their childhood, when they awake, and each evening when they go to rest, their eyes may look on the picture of this old place and they will think of how many little children that old beetroof has sheltered; how many little ones have played about these quaint old doors and windows; and how many nights, through the long years, those little children have dropped to sleep safe in the protecting arms of its old oaken beams. And when, in the later years, life's troubles begin to crowd upon the dreams of childhood, these older children shall go from their rooms with courage strengthened in the thought

of how many of their forefathers have, in the mornings of the past, gone forth to meet successfully the duties of *their* day. And when tired and worn at evening they return, seeking rest, their spirits may find a measure of hope and comfort in this evidence of their heroic past.

Such is, My Cousins! the spirit, in which we submit for your approval or disapproval, this certificate of our family bond.

"An original poem "A Fairbank Jingle," written by Mrs. Margaret L. Ray of Franklin, was recited by Mrs. Martha M. Allen of Walpole, it having first been presented by Mrs. Ray, at the family supper a year ago. (This poem is printed entire on another page.) Hon. Charles Major of Hull, Ontario, second vice president of the association, sent regrets at his absence. The youngest member present was Master Ralph B. Warden, the seven-month old child of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Warden of Monroe, N. H. The oldest present was Hon. Chilson Fairbank of Bellows Falls, Vt., aged 81 years. The very youngest member is a son of Hon. and Mrs. Rufus G. Fairbanks of West Medway, born Aug. 27, at 4 A. M."

### Officers.

The annual election of officers resulted: President, Capt. Henry N. Fairbanks of Bangor; First Vice President, Hon. Wilson Henry Fairbank of Warren; Secretary and Historian, Hon. John Wilder Fairbank of Boston; Treasurer and Custodian, Hon. Rufus Gilman Fairbanks of West Medway; Directors, Rev. Francis J. Fairbanks of Royalston; Dr. Arthur W. Fairbanks of Boston, Mrs. Martha Metcalf Allen of Walpole, Mrs. Alice Heath Dow of Braintree, and the Officers.



### In the Evening.

Returning from the old homestead to Boston, the friends gathered in the parlors of Berkeley Temple where an informal reception was held, and for half an hour the members of the family came together in a fraternal way. About 6.30, about 200 sat down to the bounteous family supper, over which President Henry Fairbanks of St. Johnsbury presided. After the feasting was over, the party reassembled in the Temple above, where the evening exercises were held. The Echo Organ was presided over by the Temple's pianist, Miss Lillian Perley Moning. The speech-making was interspersed with singing by the famous Harvard quartette of which our own cousin, Lester M. Bartlett, is the manager; Miss Florence Seeley of Watertown, favored us with contralto solos, and Miss Lena Fairbanks Webber of Cambridge, on the mandolin; both of the young ladies are members of the family.

Short speeches, earnest remarks were made by our new President, Captain Henry N. Fairbanks of Bangor, Maine, Rev. Francis J. Fairbanks, M. A. of Royalston, Dr. Arthur W. Fairbanks of Boston, Hon. Rufus G. Fairbanks of West Medway.

Mrs. Gladys Fairbanks Murray, (grand-daughter of Hon. Charles Rufus Fairbanks of Halifax, Nova Scotia), brought greetings from our Canadian cousins. Probably the two speeches of the evening were those by Rev. O. P. Gifford, D.D., of Buffalo, N. Y., and Hon. Alfred S. Roe of Worcester, Mass. Dr. Gifford needs no introduction to a Boston audience, for he was pastor of one of our churches for several years. He is one of the most talented men in the Baptist church. As the secretary (toast master) said, he knew a good thing when he saw it and so took for a wife one of the fair daughters of a Fairbanks family. A correspondent says,

"I was pleased with each and everyone of the speakers. The speaker that was the greatest surprise to me was the Rev. Mr. Gifford. I should not have supposed from his serious look that he could say such serious things; he struck me as being very witty." Ex-Senator Roe was warmly welcomed; he had married a Metcalf-Fairbank and thus is "in the family."

### Remarks of Ex-Senator Roe.

He said in part; "As a boy in the western part of New York State, I read of the wonders of the Fairbanks house, but little did I dream that I should ever have any part in its interest, but marriage works marvels and I find myself here today through the good fortune which gave me for wife a Metcalf, one of the many descendants of that Mary Fairbank whose union with Michael Metcalf we will assume was the very first celebrated beneath the then new, now ancient roof-tree. We have heard much here tonight about transmitted characteristics and some have tried to trace certain features to the original Fairbanke who, so long ago, chose Dedham for his home, yet if he will pause a moment for reflection we must see that the most direct in his descent from the firstcomer has very little of his strain. After all these generations, there have entered into the composition of each one so many lines of inheritance that it would be impossible to tell whom we most resemble.

At the same time pride in family and name is quite justifiable and assembled here, under the Fairbanks Aegis, we may feel honored that in any way we can claim a part in the exercises of this day and evening. Very likely everyone, not bearing the family name has some knowledge of certain ones who, born to the cognomen, have honored it and themselves. Notably I am thinking of one whom I learned to know in the State House on yonder hill and,





Our English Cousins,  
COUNCILLOR CHRISTOPHER FAIRBANK and MRS. FAIRBANK,  
from Fernbank, near Rochdale, England.







WORLESTER HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF 1879, REUNION, 1899; PRINCIPAL FARRANKS, CENTRAL LEFT FIGURE.



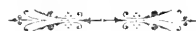
as Representative and Senator, I valued his acquaintance highly. When the Governor wished to send to the forthcoming World's Fair in St. Louis, a worthy representative he named our friend and associate, the Hon. Wilson H. Fairbank. More than twenty-five years since, I found myself a teacher in one of the largest high schools in the Commonwealth and, associated with me in the same, he being principal, was the late Joseph W. Fairbanks, a brother of the gentleman whom you have just heard, a man whom to know was to love and respect, a favorite everywhere, his premature death we shall never cease to lament.

In and through the old house in Dedham, we have been today and the more we inspect its ancient features the more we wonder at its long continuance. It affords a many-sided lesson; we see how it grew by necessity from its start, added to here and there, till in time it becomes the structure which we admire and revere. We wonder as we stoop beneath its low ceilings whether the Fairbankses of yore, those just from the Old Home, were of shorter stature than their descendants, or whether Jonas Fairbanks cut his timbers for bringing hither just as short as possible to save freight, or was he careful to make his between floors thus low that he might save heat in the dead of winter? We can never answer, but we have had ocular evidence today that the representative Fairbank who comes to us from England direct is not so tall as the American Fairbankses are who have been in evidence on this occasion.

Happily for our treasured structure, it stands where, as yet, no railway, horse, steam or electric, has clamored for its removal. Usually the advance of so-called improvement has been the chief enemy of the ancient and venerated. Today in this very town of Dedham, I have looked upon

a growing edifice which rises on the site of Fisher Ames's birthplace. No doubt this is quite right for we cannot keep all that is old, but our good fortune consists in having our cherished relic just far enough from the centre of things to escape the covetous eye of the builder and developer. Thus may it continue; may the family so inclose and fortify the building that it will bid defiance to both Time and Fire, a veritable Mecca, not alone to the family and its many branches, but to every man who loves and respects the old, for the Fairbanks house is the oldest dwelling, still occupied, in America."

Though the evening's entertainment was informal, yet it was highly entertaining and at the conclusion the members were slow to separate. Thus ended a delightful day, a delightful re-union, with the hope expressed that another year would see many times more, gathering at the home-coming and that year by year, the family at large would be knit together in closer ties for the good of all.



### Personal Reflections and Thoughts.

*Dear Mr. Editor:—*

Many and varied have been my thoughts and reflections, since attending the reunion gatherings at Dedham, August 27, 1903.

To meet so many representatives from all parts of America and Canada reminded me of the highest form of seed bearing flowers, called the "Phanerogams" possessing 'Wings,' such as the Dandelion and Thistle seeds, which the wind conveys and scatters at great distances.

That Jonathan Fairbank the founder of the American family came to Dedham was no chance affair, it was the Divine Providence similar to that of 'Abram' of old



selected for a purpose, to build up a race, and a nation for a wise and useful design.

That the Fairbanks of America have had, and are having a great Mission, I feel assured, their name, power and influence today in every sphere of life is manifest.

Their records bear testimony, they are represented in every profession, leaders in every branch of Industry, Captains in all the great Commercial undertakings, and in the political world they have held and are holding almost every position that it is possible to attain.

Nothing is too great or unattainable. Their principles, qualifications and abilities, command the respect and confidence of every citizen, and I have no doubt whatever but that the greatest position of this country will yet be held by a member of the Fairbank family bearing the great and historic name.

I feel grateful to an all wise Providence for guiding and bringing to this Country your great Progenitor, whose principles, character, disposition you have inherited, and that you have founded a family worthy of your ancestors, whose influence, power, and service are destined to command the respect and confidence of all with whom you are brought into contact with.

I am reminded of God's appeal to the Patriarch Abram of old, and think there is a remarkable coincidence between Abram and Jonathan.

"Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy Father's House, unto a land that I will show thee, and I will make of thee a great nation, and I will Bless thee and make thy name great, and thou shalt be a Blessing."

We are having a most delightful holiday, and beautiful weather, the time is rapidly flying, we regret that it is so short.

We send our best wishes and trust your Magazine is getting into shape, and that it

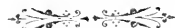
may form a great and useful Magazine in our family, both in America and in the Old Country.

Wishing you every success in all your efforts, in every department of useful service for Christ and humanity.

Truly,

Your English Cousin,

Christopher Fairbank.



Joseph Whitcomb Fairbanks.

ALFRED S. ROE.



THE recent death of Dr. J. W. Fairbanks, treasurer of Amherst College, calls attention to the fact that twenty-five years ago his was a prominent figure in Worcester, one that many of his former pupils recall with no little pleasure. For three years, or from September, 1875, to June, 1878, he was principal of the Classical and English high school, securing in that position a reputation unsurpassed by any one of his successors or predecessors. For the gratification of the many people that knew him in those somewhat remote days, this sketch of Dr. Fairbanks' life is given here.

He was born in Ashburnham, Mass., March 26, 1841, the son of Emory and Eunice (Hayward) Fairbanks, the father being a respected farmer, the sixth in direct descent from that Jonathan Fairbanks of Dedham whose residence built in 1636, is justly held with pride as the oldest dwelling-house in America. His earlier school days were in the district schools of his native town and the high school of Templeton, under its excellent master, H. F. Lane, a brother-in-law of the Ashburnham boy, finishing his preparation for college at Williston Academy, Easthampton. He entered Amherst College at 1862, and was graduated thence in 1866, having



among other classmates of note, President Harris, Prof. E. H. Barlow of Lafayette College, Prof. H. H. Neil of Amherst, Rev. Charles H. Parkhurst of New York, and the late Prof. A. S. Kimball of the Worcester Polytechnic. Like several other bright men in '66, including the present President, Mr. F. was a member of the Alpha Delta Phi Fraternity.

Mr. G. Henry Whitecomb of this city was in college during a part of Mr. Fairbanks' course, graduating two years earlier.

Immediately after graduation Mr. Fairbanks entered the teaching ranks, going to the principalship of the high school in South Hadley Falls, where he remained for two years. Next he went down to Norwalk, Conn., where he was at the head of the Centre high school from 1868 to 1874. In September of the latter year he came to Worcester as the principal of the Dix Street grammar school, remaining in in that position one year, going thence to the Classical and English high school the following year, succeeding Mr. Ellis Pererson, for many years one of the supervisors of the public schools of Boston.

There were elements of unrest and disaffection in the school at that time, but the temperament of the new principal was well calculated to bring order out of confusion, and most excellent results were speedily attained. To begin with, Mr. Fairbanks was a man of superior presence, tall and well proportioned; with a frank, open face, he always created a good expression. Indeed, only a week or two ago a lady of this city was heard to say that in her girlhood she thought that Mr F. was the handsomest man she had ever seen, and that she had had no occasion to change her mind in the subsequent years. It is hardly possible that she was the only one holding this opinion among the many pupils who, in those days, thronged the then new edifice on Walnut Street.

As principal Mr. Fairbanks remained three years, and wrote his name on the diplomas of the classes of '76, '77 and '78. He was there during the retrenchment times of the seventies, and two reductions were made in the salaries of high school teachers and in those of some of the grammar school instructors. In this way ten per cent. has been whittled of his salary twice, hence when if a new principal was sought at Easthampton and an offer came to the Worcester man, he was all the more ready to listen to it. Of his stay in this city he must have carried away pleasant impressions, a condition which was equally held by the young people who had been associated with him. He joined heartily with them in all their aspirations and diversions, leaving in the minds of all a sense of thorough love and sympathy. During his stay there was a constant upward tendency of the school. While in Worcester, with his family, Mr. Fairbanks was a member of the Central Congregational Church. For the greater portion of his Worcester residence his home was on the north side of William Street, just west of the Bullington mansion. Later he resided on the northeast corner of Lincoln Street and Harrington Avenue, for some years the abode of the late E. A. Sumner.

As he came in contact with young people he created in them the impression that he was alive to their needs, and that anything in his power was at their disposal; this impression, also, was gained by his associate teachers. While ready to bear his part in the lighter and brighter features of school life, he was equally ready to take the part of a man in the more sober and serious phases of his positions. Certainly, one of his fellow teachers can never forget the prayer made by the principal at the bedside of one of his school boys, who even then was near the crossing of the river, a victim of the typhoid fever. Such ability





and such willingness on his part made impressions on many hearts that can never be effaced. At least one of the classes that were in the school during his entire stay, though he did not remain to its graduation, always cherished a word from him at the reunions which, from time to time have been held. It was in 1899 that the class of '79 had its reunion at the home of Mrs. Eliza P. (Stowell) Bryden, and there was a general acclaim of the fact that the former principal could be present. The photograph made on that day is the one used in this article to show the appearance of the former principal after the absence of almost a generation. Of those associated with him in the school Messrs. Rice and Field long since preceded him to the spirit land. Already preparations are afoot for the twenty-fifth anniversary gathering of the class of '79, and many were reckoning on the coming of the loved teacher as he had promised, but he will not be visible in the joyous circle.

Going from Worcester to Easthampton Mr. Fairbanks remained at the head of the Williston Academy from 1878 to 1884. Thence he went to St. Paul, Minnesota where as a private teacher, or in business, he resided a number of years, going thence, in 1892, to St. Louis to the principalship of Smith Academy, the preparatory school for Washington University. In 1898 he went to Amherst to assume the duties of treasurer of the college, duties which were faithfully performed up to the time of his death. There must have been a deal of pleasure in returning to his alma mater, to look after her welfare and to do all in his power to further the interests of the institution which not only has given him his baccalaureate degree, but in 1877 had made him a Doctor of Philosophy.

When, in his boyhood, he went over to Templeton to attend school conducted so long and so well by his brother-in-law, he

must have found time to cultivate, also, the tender passion, for in 1868, he went back to that pleasant township to take as his wife Miss Ellen M. Cutting, daughter of one of Templeton's most honored citizens. To this union there were born three children whom some Worcester people will remember, Misses Gertrude M., Helen Louise and Joseph Whitcomb, Jr. The latter, a bright lad, and the pride of his parents' hearts, died Dec. 31, 1884. The second daughter is Mrs. Charles Ripley Lynde of Newtonville, Mass.

Recalling the stalwart proportions of Dr. Fairbanks, it seems impossible that he should, thus early in life, yield to the encroachments of disease, but for some time his accustomed vigor was being undermined; still he kept about his duties till early in May last, when he appeared in public for the last time at the laying of the corner-stone of the new observatory, May 24. From the time of his giving up there was very little expectation of his recovery, his illness being fatty degeneration of his heart. As an indication of the regard in which he was held by the students of the college it is interesting to remember that they, during the heated term of May, volunteered to try to enhance his comfort by using fans by his bedside and by playing water hose-pipes upon the roof, sides and windows of his house. He died June 25, his illness throwing a cloud over the annual commencement. The burial was in Templeton, among the scenes hallowed by lifelong organizations.

The following paragraph from the Amherst correspondent of the *Springfield Republican* gives a very good idea of the position he held among the citizens of the college town:

"His illness was long and lingering, and there was scarcely hope of recovery from the first, but he bore the terrible ordeal courageously and looked forward to tell





Worcester High School, Class of 1879, Reunion, 1899; Principal Fairbanks Central Left Figure.



end without flinching, retaining his thoughtfulness for others and his own extremity. Dr. Fairbanks was a man of the strongest will and character, who wrought faithfully the work before him without the thought of self-seeking or catering to public opinion. A person not only of scrupulous integrity, but also of extraordinary exactitude and regularity in all business matters, his services were of priceless value to the college. Possessed of an earnest nature and kind heart, he was unswearing in his loyalty to those who won his respect and friendship though by nature he was not demonstrative. Terrible though his suffering had been, the end came suddenly and peacefully. No radical change appeared until a few hours after death. He fell asleep early in the morning, and passed away quietly just before noon. He will be missed by a large number of strong friends, and especially from his place in the First Congregational Church, of which he was a deacon and whose Sunday school he had served as superintendent."



### William Cullen Bryant Sang

Wild was the day; the wintry sea  
Moaned sadly on New England's strand,  
When first the thoughtful and the free,  
Our fathers, trod the desert land.  
They little thought how pure a light,  
With years, should gather round that  
day;  
How love should keep their memories  
bright,  
How wide a realm their sons should sway,  
Green are the bays; but greener still  
Shall round their spreading fame be  
wreathed.  
And regions, now untrod, shall thrill  
With reverence when their names are  
breathed.  
Till where the sun, with softer fires,  
Looks on the vast Pacific's sleep,  
The children of the pilgrim sires  
This hallowed day like us shall keep.

### Forefathers' Day.

From the life of Dr. Constant Goodell.

Plymouth Rock meant to him faith in God, reverence for the institutions of God, loyalty to Jesus Christ, fidelity to duty, heroism of the finest and loftiest, and an unstinted devotion of one's best energies and thoughts to the saving of men and the upbuilding of God's kingdom. He said, "Build no doubting castle beside Plymouth Rock."

"New occasions teach new duties,  
We ourselves must pilgrims be,  
Launch our Mayflower and steer boldly,  
Through the desperate winter sea."



### The After Years.

"Never a day is given  
But it tones the after years,  
And it carries up to heaven  
Its sunshine or its tears;  
While the to-morrows stand and wait—  
The silent mutes by the outer gate."



### The Fairbank Literary Bureau.

Under this title, the Secretary-Historian of the family, proposes to carry on an office work in Boston. It is his design to have this Bureau organized for all kinds of publishing work. There is a demand for several genealogies and histories. It is planned also to work especially for mail orders from the family all over the country, for any article they may wish. Many great institutions have been built up in this way. Such order work will enable him to give time to the increasing family demands. A co-operative plan for mutual interest will be devised and submitted later on.



## PICTURE OF THE OLD HOMESTEAD.

**COUSIN REBECCA AND DOG AT THE DOOR.**—It gives me great pleasure to say, that through the courtesy of "Cousin Rebecca," who has lived in the old house the past quarter of a century (it having come down to her lineally through six generations from Jonathan's oldest son John), I am enabled to offer a fine *new half-tone*, showing the entrance view to the house and herself seated at the door. As she is nearly 76 years old, she probably will not have another taken. Size, 7x9. Price, only 50 cents, post paid, mounted on bevelled card board. Her signature and greeting on each.

**Photograph of the "First Home Coming,"** taken August. 27, 1902, showing the group of more than 500 gathered under the old elms on the lawn, with the "Fairbanks Banner" and "Stars and Stripes" flying. Size, 11x17, mailed in tube, one dollar.

**Photograph of the "Second Home Coming,"** taken August 27, 1903, showing the group, gathered on the opposite side of the house from that of the first home coming. Size, 6x9 mounted on board, price 50 cents, post paid.

**A Fine Half-Tone,** 5x7 mounted on bevelled board 10x12, side view, post-paid, 25 cents.

**A Card Half-Tone,** same mounting, 5x6, 10 cents.

**A Beautiful Three-Colored Picture,** 6 1-2x9, mounted on bevelled board, 50 cts. A very handsome picture in colors.

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**Prescott Stationery.** A quire of paper, fine quality, stamped with the Prescott "Coat of Arms" in the several colors, according to "Burke;" also a package of envelopes stamped in blue,—put up in neat box. Mailed, postpaid, on receipt of 70 cents. All descendants from Jonas, the third son of Jonathan, who married Lydia Prescott, are entitled to use this, also many of the George descendants.

**Fayerbanke Badge.** Second Home Coming. Large, 50 cts. Children 25 cts.

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